

RISING SIGNS

Natal Ascendant in Aries

(Bernice Grebner)

First decanate (Aries-Aries): this gives intense activity and should be used constructively. It makes the person take risks. They need to watch out for accidents, for their energy can be used in pursuit of daredevil experiences. They tend to be loners.

With the Libra-Libra on the Descendant, they view the partners in regard to themselves and not always to the advantage of the partners. They need to curb their tendencies to try to influence the partner's ideas and behavior. When they finally see that they are trying almost deliberately to lead the partner and have learned to see the partner in his own right, they can share to the point of sacrifice. This is a question of learning balance.

Second decanate (Aries-Leo): these people want to come first, for they love approbation and want to be applauded for what they do. They love their children but they would rather show them off to reflect themselves. They like to have fun and games and enjoy the dramatic. Being charming is their middle name.

With the Libra-Aquarius on the Descendant, these people are not apt to marry or associate with anyone dull. The partners had better accept them as they are, for if they do not there will be problems. They have to constantly try to be diplomatic, which they can't always do (they fluctuate from diplomacy to abruptness). The partner may have been a friend or they may have met at a social function because they shared a friend.

Third decanate (Aries-Sagittarius): this position gives great enthusiasm and a good sense of humor. There is a tendency to scatter energy. The need is to use this energy for higher education instead of using it on escapades of adventure. The image they project is up to them.

With Libra-Gemini on the Descendant, they can be verbally expressive when they want to, but their heart is not always in it. They believe in the theory of twin souls. They need sentiment from their partners but do not always give it themselves. They are much more the diplomats within their communities than they are at home with partners.

(Sepharial and Muchery)

First decanate: It confers a warlike and aggressive spirit, a taste for political and public work; disposes to injuries in the head and face; gives success through pioneer work or military service, and renders the life changeful and remarkable in many ways

Second decanate: A proud and haughty nature, desiring to bear rule; ambitious and aspiring; loving the practical arts; extravagant and generous nature; impulsive, critical, despising mean or underhanded actions; free, but courteous in manner; gives success in governmental positions and military life, and secures the favour of men.

Third decanate: Gives strong passions, love of pleasures; bright and sparkling nature, love of art and poetry; renders the nature kind and loving, but very impulsive and over-ardent. The decan is not a very fortunate one, but it confers a generous, warm disposition which attracts friends.

Physical qualities: Aries gives a long neck, bony or angular face, with an aquiline nose, broad temples, and a narrow chin; dry, coarse, crisp or wiry hair, sometimes sandy, sometimes very dark; generally a distinctive mark on the face such as a scar or mole, or freckles. The native is fairly tall, with a muscular, strongly built body but delicate joints. The eyes are small but piercing; often of a light color (greyish or grey-brown). Baldness at the temples occurs at an early age, and the hair becomes prematurely white.

Mental qualities: Ambition, courage, impulse; desire for prominence; enterprise, ingenuity, audacity. Aries in the Ascendant, from the standpoint of character, gives ambition, moral and physical courage and energy, which enables the native to succeed through his own efforts.

(Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

Arians project themselves with intense energy and with primal power. Their decisiveness enables them to act on their ideas the minute they are formed. Arians do not waste time. They are competitive and have the urge to excel in everything they do. They must continually prove themselves to themselves through action.

With Libra on the 7th house cusp, often Arians marry without considering the major factors involved; and strife is a likely result. They tend to choose gentle and vulnerable marriage partners. Their mates are usually skilled in public relations and intent on presenting a good image to the world.

(Dane Rudhyar)

Aries represents a straightforward movement of life toward a concrete, tangible, and personalized state of existence, because it is the nature of the Day-force to seek manifestation through differentiation and personalization at any level. Thus, if Aries is the sign rising at the eastern horizon when the first act of at least relative independence is performed - the first breath - the child's latent consciousness is stamped with a rather impulsive and impetuous eagerness to assert his uniqueness of destiny - his dharma - and to attempt to define more clearly who he is by taking a lead in life situations.

Aries is a sign closely linked with the spirit of adolescence. At this time the Day-force is just beginning to display its strength; it is still insecure. But being insecure, it compensates by appearing aggressive. The person with an Aries Ascendant may tend to romanticize his selfhood. He may be full of yearnings and desires for anything that mirrors to himself his essential and unique self. The objects of his desires and the mirrors of his true self will tend to have Libra characteristics, for Libra will be the sign at his western horizon, the Descendant, thus the symbol of the way he will - or should - approach interpersonal relationships.

Libra represents movement toward the development of a social-cultural consciousness, the eagerness for an 'I' to interact with a 'Thou', so that through this interplay a greater life may be experienced. Because the Aries Ascendant stimulates the typical adolescent yearning for self-expression and the assertion of uniqueness, it requires as a balancing force a sense of social values. One has to have something to assert oneself in or for, but at the Aries level this should not be too much of a challenge; it is better that it should take the form of a group, a collective set of values, a noble ideal, or perhaps faith in something that would allow the Aries drive for self-actualization to take form in the release of impersonal or transcendent spiritual energies.

(Howard Sasportas)

With the fiery sign of Aries rising, the person should meet life in a straightforward and energetic manner: 'Here I am, notice me, now let's get things started'. There is a need to be decisive, take action, and 'own' the power to create and direct the life. The core of Aries rising is finding this creative potency within, not waiting around for things to happen. Life is best viewed as an adventure, quest and challenge. If other placements in the chart indicate a meek or withdrawn nature, there will be more struggle in developing the Aries qualities. If the Aries Ascendant is denied expression, the inner frustration which accumulates could periodically explode in illness, dramatic or wild outbursts, unruly fits of anger, or other forms of self-destructive behaviour. If the rest of the chart is already fairly fiery, the Aries Ascendant allows the assertiveness to flow freely, but with the danger of being too forceful or overly egocentric - which in the end may be self-defeating.

If Aries is rising then the opposite sign, Libra, will be on the Descendant, beckoning the person to balance rampant autonomy with some degree of consideration for another person. However, if those with this Ascendant have to choose one extreme or the other, it is probably wisest that they err in favour of self-assertion and daring rather than hold back too much for the sake of keeping the peace or adapting to the requirements of others. After their own power has been found and the courage to be the self is freed, then they can learn to regulate, adjust and temper the nature accordingly. Ultimately, the Libra qualities of grace, forethought and consideration for another person's case and point of view will need to be included.

Physically, Aries rising may evince a lively, energetic face with intense but darting eye-contact. Movements are usually quick and impulsive, as if the person is ready at any moment to plunge headlong into some new activity. 'Don't stand in my way' may be the message subtly (or not so subtly) communicated to others.

(Jeanne Avery)

As the first thrust of Spring brings life in the form of flowers bursting through the hard, cold crust of earth, so does the first sign of the zodiac bring vibrancy to the material world around him. His bursting forth may not be as gentle as that of the plants, yet the general impression he creates is that of breaking up old patterns in order to produce rebirth and new beauty. The ruler of Aries is Mars. The person with this Ascendant expresses himself with the forcefulness of that aggressive, warlike planet, yet he also shows a romantic side that belies the fighting side of his personality.

Mars is the planet of action. It betokens activity, ambition, determination, and antagonism. It is sexual energy and high creative energy at the same time. It indicates impatience and frustration, competitive spirit and temper; yet without Mars energy, new fields would never be conquered. It is symbolic of creation itself. Aries is a Fire sign, denoting high enthusiasm and vitality. It is also a cardinal sign, showing sensitivity and an open quality. Mars wants to go forward without thought of the risks involved. It is the planet of impetuosity and impulse. It is volatile and stimulating.

If we consider that Aries is the first sign of the zodiac, we see the similarity in the Aries personality, who always wants to be first. The individual with this Ascendant is therefore a natural pioneer, as his daring and courage easily take him into uncharted territory. He is like the penetrating wedge, paving the way for the rest of the human race. He fights the battles, breaks the ice, and makes life easier for others who come behind. He is the explorer.

Since Mars is the planet of action, the most obvious form of self-expression for one with this Ascendant is through physical activity. In fact, unless one with Aries rising gets enough physical exercise, the energy backs up and becomes temper and frustration. It has been proven through research that Mars is the strongest planet in the charts of athletes and dancers. The perfection of the physical instrument coupled with the competitive spirit makes sport a natural outlet for one with this Ascendant. The discipline necessary to perfect dance techniques provide a perfect focus for the outlet of Mars energy.

In Mayan civilization, games were used to settle differences that might arise between people. Sports played a most important role in releasing anger and conflict, as well as indicating a winner. In our present times, the Olympic Games provide a healthy outlet for competition between nations. The whole spirit of the Olympics is Martian in its nature. The directed energy, concentrated in its focus, enables athletic champion after champion to dare to set new world records. No-one doubts the courage it requires to strive for new speed, new technique, more perfection. Athletic prowess is combined with the spirit of sportsmanship and fair play in healthy competitive activity. The drive and discipline necessary to overcome obstacles in the way of success is a perfect example of the way Mars energy works. Along with physical prowess, and need for competition, justice over evil, truth over falsehood is symbolic of sportsmanship. When the person with this fiery Ascendant finds a cause and taps his natural aggressive energy, he becomes a champion in his own way, striving to pave the way for new achievement. He is also able to work through his inner frustrations and impatience.

St. George, the patron saint of England, is an example of the kind of 'fight for right' that challenges the Mars-ruled person. (Remember the knights of the holy grail, who set out to conquer the unknown territory that would lead them to their victory and destiny?) Yet with all types of Mars energy, the fight for right may be combined with a goal that is unrealistic, even wrong in its concepts. Periods of war and military conquest are always rationalized by the vision of what is right. The Aries person, too, may see only his own point of view, his own vision and goals. But where his zest is unquestioned, his propriety may sometimes leave room for doubt.

Aries governed the period of civilization after Egypt's highly developed phase and before the Christian era. It covered the span of history that included the conquests of Alexander the Great and the military power of the Romans. The period of wars and military strength presaged the breaking of old conditions, stagnant civilizations, and brought forth the colonization of new lands. Migrations occurred as a result of the devastation. The times produced spiritual leaders to spearhead the change to come. Moses, with his fiery personality, courage and daring battled the elements and the people to make his way across the desert. His anger was displayed in the breaking of the Tablets of the Law. His drive and determination brought his charges into line and pioneered a whole new civilization.

The ram was the symbol of religion at that time. Blood sacrifices were required by the faithful. The ram is the astrological symbol assigned to Aries, and Mars rules blood as well as war and conflict. The ram pushes through obstacles by butting his head against that barrier and forcing the wall to give way. One with an Aries Ascendant can do the same thing. He may not use good judgement about his head-on collisions, but he will hammer away until he breaks through any impasse. Aries rules the head. It may be well for one with this Ascendant to use his head for something other than a battering-ram. The clue comes from discovering the brain that lies inside.

The natural characteristics exhibited by one with this Ascendant are manifold. Beyond that dynamic energy and aggression lies a real need for conquest and challenge. The fighting spirit is so strong that unless the individual with this rising sign learns to channel his energy constructively, he may find he antagonizes everyone around him. He is not usually a naturally tactful person, and he may not care whom he upsets in the process of fulfilling his ambition. And, ambitious and competitive he certainly is. The answer lies in the way he directs that ambitious, competitive force. He is either a fighter, or a fighter for people or causes. One way or another, he will fight. He has extraordinary drive and determination, as well as courage. He can initiate new cycles of activity that would overwhelm a more timid soul. He is forceful, self-assertive, and sometimes willful. That dynamic willpower is perhaps the most important asset he possesses if he learns how to use it wisely.

The individual with Aries rising will venture, sometimes unwisely, where angels fear to tread. He loves the thrill of daily combat. He thrives on hairbreadth escapes and danger. Crisis motivates him to excel. If there is no combat in his life, he may have to invent some. Without action, he becomes bored, impatient, frustrated, and tactless. His anger turned inward may cause him to seek release in less than fruitful experiences. He can be willful and may not listen to reason. He may become tricky and jealous. He is sometimes frank to the point of bluntness, wounding those around him with his cutting words. His hostility and aggression can produce dreadful wounds that he doesn't mean to inflict.

Mars governs the sexual energy and activity. Just as sexual energy can be compelling and sometimes non-discriminating, the person with this Ascendant can use his energy in a non-discriminating manner. He needs to channel and discipline his exuberance to prevent excessive and possibly damaging expression. It is his fine power of reason that enables him to direct his abundant sexual drive into constructive areas. Mars also rules metals. A person with Aries on the Ascendant can rechannel much of his impatience by working with metals in some way or another. He also releases energy through physical exercise. Whether he runs, dances, builds things with a metal hammer and nails, produces metal sculpture, or works with needles or knives, he must find a way to be 'combative'. Metals provide the resistance he needs for his energy release. It simply won't work to sit on all that dynamic energy or try to repress it. To ignore the frustrations would simply delay the reaction. Eventually, the lid will blow at the most inopportune time. The Aries temper, once vented, is quickly forgotten, however. He never intends to hurt anyone with his sudden outbursts.

Lucy Guercio, with Aries ascending, says this about the release of energy: 'I never have any physical problems because I release the tension or energy. I never have headaches or stomachaches because sometimes I get in my car and just scream. As long as I scream and yell and get it out, I feel much better.' One of the Reichian techniques for the release and rechanneling of tension is to scream and yell into a pillow if necessary. After such a session, almost anyone feels infinitely better physically.

Since individuals with Aries rising are the most romantic people in the zodiac, it is interesting to note that many of the screen's great lovers share this ascendant. The sexual image they project captivates women all over the world. Rudolph Valentino, Paul Newman, Steve McQueen and Warren Beatty share his rising sign. All of them come across as hard-driving, hard-loving men of action.

The person with an Aries Ascendant has a very strong constitution and terrific sense of direction. His physical movements are quick and impulsive. The tendency to trip over things is characteristic of the Martian impulse to go right through anything in one's way. The ram will spend time battering down a wall rather than walking around

it. The Martian personality runs the race at breakneck speed.

The person with this Ascendant is a terrific starter, but not such a good finisher. He is daring and animated, but impatient with those who can't keep up with him. He wants everything yesterday, wants to see immediate results, and has no tolerance for limitation and restriction. The Aries personality can cut through extraneous matters and get right to the heart of a situation, but he can be lacking in self-control and patience. If a pet project or a situation doesn't work out the way he wants, he will simply walk away rather than take the time to discover what went wrong. His need to conquer new territory may not keep him around a project or relationship that is ailing, so he can appear rather unsympathetic and unfeeling at times.

After one with Aries ascending has run the gamut of experiences and discovers that there is still an unsatisfied longing, he may pause long enough to engage his fine mind and figure things out. Mercury is the planet of intellect and reason. Aries corresponds to the head and to the motor impulses that arise in the brain. If he refuses to pay attention to his intellect, he can develop headaches as a result of that backed-up energy. Yet, with analysis of a particular situation, he can focus his energy, direct his actions more carefully, and lead a more fulfilling life. The Aries personality is capable of doing almost anything he really wants to do, simply because he has no fear. If he becomes aware of his fascination for the new and untried, his need for exploration, he will find a constructive way to utilize that talent instead of simply scattering his energy.

Many individuals with this Ascendant discover a talent for big business, where drive, ambition, and cunning enable them to employ innovative ideas that put them ahead of competitors. The Aries Ascendant gives credence to the ability to forge new direction in business and in history, to find new and original solutions. One with this Ascendant will always need to be in the race for progress. He enjoys the possibility of overcoming difficulties. He will not hesitate to challenge someone who opposes his ideas.

People with this Ascendant may choose the military life as a vehicle to express this Martian energy. Rash courage and bold self-confidence can make them natural leaders. The willingness to fight in the realm of ideas may motivate others to devote their lives to pioneering an organization for the betterment of humanity. Politicians with this placement are willing to battle all opposition in order to rise to the highest position in the land.

Surgery and medicine provide a natural outlet for this quality of energy. The success in animating and stimulating originality in others impels many natives with this Ascendant to become theatrical directors. A director can be most challenged in the field of thought and succeed due to his fine powers of discrimination.

The need for action and activity is directly connected to early survival decisions. The Ascendant in a chart indicates the particular quality of energy we are most comfortable in expressing. It appears that the choice of Ascendant is related to the conditions surrounding our arrival on the earth plane. During regression sessions, most individuals 'remember' their birth. Many people are aware of a conscious decision about how they will handle their particular set of circumstances. Those decisions seem to precondition behavior throughout life, unless the individual becomes cognizant of their counterproductivity. When Aries is on the rise, it appears that the individual is born with a certain amount of anger or frustration. It may be that the birth process is difficult and he has to fight his way out, or the conditions awaiting him appear to be less than harmonious. Nevertheless, he seems to decide that he will make it as long as he can fight, take action, and explore. Many times, this

decision is connected to a memory of a military past life. In that case, the aggressive tendency is the most familiar one.

Since survival depends on fight, it is important that the person find real life situations to combat. Otherwise he is simply angry for the sake of anger, active to prevent boredom, and frustrated over limiting situations and restrictions. The Ascendant also describes how we behave when we are not on safe turf. For one with Aries rising, scared behavior can manifest in overly violent reactions, temper, and a caustic manner. If this person can decide why he is feeling threatened and unsure, he may lose the need to be overbearing. He feels safe when he is leading the attack. His motto could very well be: 'A good offence is the best defence'. This is the façade, of which he may be unaware on a conscious level, that he develops early on in his life. If he discovers that this tendency to battle and rush headlong into the fray becomes counterproductive and prevents his accomplishing what he wants, he can learn to show his true resolution and directed energy. He will always be a person of action, but with more thought and decision he will outdistance others in his attempt to conquer new worlds.

Children with this Ascendant can be very difficult to discipline. Discipline is essential, as they love to get into mischief, but they are particularly resistant to the word 'no'. The impetuous, rebellious nature with this Ascendant is so strong that the only way of reaching children with this Ascendant is through reason and appeal to their sense of justice. If they learn for themselves that temper tantrums and disobedience will only make life more difficult, they will learn to be more rational. A quiet, calm presentation of facts is the only way to reach them at times.

Even more important is the find a physical outlet for all the abundant vitality. It is essential that the child be given an opportunity to explore and investigate life to prevent an overly rebellious attitude. Since he is intrigued by a challenge, perfection of a talent will help him deal with his sexual, creative energy in a healthy way. Music, dance, art, and athletics are important for this child. Dancing and skating may enable him or her to channel some of that abundant energy. Since the sexual energy is so strong in one with an Aries Ascendant, there may be a tendency to experiment very early in life. Sound moral values, instilled as early as possible, can help to prevent negative experiences in puberty.

This child is given to hero worship as well. Realistic presentation of facts about situations and people is also important. Blind devotion can lead him into more trouble than almost anything else. He rushes into a situation or involvement without really understanding the issues at hand. Once he is committed, it is difficult to dissuade him. Since he can't easily be persuaded to control his impulse, he may have to learn by trial and error. Being burned in a small way can prevent later, larger wounds. If he becomes aware of the boomerang effect of his actions and is allowed to take the consequences, he will develop more cautious behavior. Because of his wish to have immediate gratification, life can be difficult for a child with this Ascendant. He will develop a strong love for truth, justice, and loyalty if he is given a chance.

The placement for Mars in an individual chart will indicate the ideal area for the release of this incredible drive. The aspects to Mars indicate how easy it is for the individual to realize his need for action.

The individual with Aries ascending can learn much from examination of the qualities of his opposite sign, Libra. Each sign has a polarity with the opposite one in the chart. Health is in finding balance, and balance in this instance comes from adopting some of the diplomatic qualities of the Libran personality. He can also learn some lessons of graciousness and charm. (The Libra personality in turn can learn

something from the aggressive energy of the Mars-ruled person.) The United Nations gives a perfect example of the integration of these qualities. With Aries on the Ascendant of this world court, the pioneering quality is obvious. Issues that are brought to the attention of this body are certainly ones that could lead to conflict if unresolved. But with calm deliberation, diplomacy, and tact - while never losing sight of the fight involved - issues can be resolved peacefully. With a rational approach and examining all sides of the issue, reason solves potentially explosive situations. Aries rising can learn much from the way the UN operates. Since the Aries personality is the most romantic in the zodiac, if he learns to make love, not war, he is a winner beyond compare.

With Libra on the Descendant, what one with a Martian personality needs and looks for in a relationship is the calming, tranquil influence of someone dedicated to keeping peace. If Venus is well-aspected in the individual chart, there is a good chance that one with Aries rising will find just that in a partnership.

A Venus-ruled person is one who is easygoing, diplomatic, charming, and pleasant to look at. Graciousness is a natural part of the personality. Venus rules artistry, sociability, and balance. The poise associated with a Venusian personality is essential for the completion of the aggressive spirit of the Aries personality. In order to keep peace and restore harmony and balance, a Venus-ruled person needs the dynamic, hasty, impulsive Martian person to stir things up. In that way, they complement each other. The danger comes when the Venus-ruled person tries to keep peace at any cost, while the Mars-ruled personality forges ahead with unchecked ambition and drive. Sometimes the Mars-ruled person may be frustrated by lack of drive or zest on the part of the mate, who will never challenge him.

The aspects of Venus in an individual chart give clues about the nature of the relationship. If Venus is well-aspected, the Aries rising person is successful in attracting that beautiful person to share his life or his business. If marriage is the issue, the Aries personality will find his true love. He will marry for only one reason and that is for love and to find the happiness and harmony he is seeking. That love will be returned, and a good relationship is assured. If business is involved, the Libra diplomacy will smooth over any feathers that the Mars-ruled person ruffles. The ambitious, daring, pioneering quality of the Aries person is enhanced and harmonized by the Libra ability to negotiate. Libra rules legal affairs as well. The legal balance of the scales is sometimes necessary to check the impulsive quality of the Aries personality.

If Venus is not well-aspected in the chart, the easygoing nature of the partner may very well keep him from expressing active diplomacy. Laziness, an unwillingness to make waves, can stimulate him to do anything to keep peace. The negative aspects indicate the possibility of being devious, tricky, and self-indulgent. Social graces give way to flattery, indiscriminate inaction. Love gives way to possessiveness and jealousy. The Mars personality may not get the support and active harmony he needs. The relationship will not be stormy, but just the opposite. It may lack the energy and magnetic attraction essential for true happiness. Aries rising can feel guilty if he is allowed to ride roughshod over someone too gentle to fight back, or to stand up for himself. The Mars personality may need to examine motives for the partnership or relationship. If the *raison d'être* is for public approval or for social contacts, the relationship will not provide what is truly essential for one with Aries rising. If opposite can learn from each other rather than forming a competitive relationship, their complementary qualities can bring greater enrichment. One with Aries rising can learn a great deal about tact from the Venusian personality.

(Lyn Birbeck)

You are a go-getter or bulldozer. Mars is your ruling planet. Other is a diplomat or Yes-person. Venus is Other's ruling planet.

You take on the role of leader, so invariably you act first, decide what's to be done, and get things moving. Other acts as a counterbalance to this, depending upon how agreeable he / she finds it, and whether it fits in with the general consensus or not. Other will usually try to be diplomatic in the face of your unequivocal stance. If Other is particularly unsure of his / her own standpoint, he / she will go along - happily or not - with whatever your decision or action happens to be. If or when he / she has a more definite opinion, and is not entirely happy with your tack, he / she will deal with your forcefulness in the following way: first, he / she will try to get you to see his / her own or another's position; failing that, he / she will argue a bit; and failing that he / she will use passive resistance. But any soppiness or superficiality on Other's part would be vigorously attacked by you.

Your Shadow is indecision. You are uncomfortable with having to wait things out, or with letting things develop outside of your initiative. It is as if you see any passivity or too much consideration of other people's opinions as flabby indecisiveness, and as being a sure sign of asking to be beaten to the punch. But what you see as precarious indecision is really a weighing of the pros and cons of a situation; a look at any possible repercussions, and a generally more harmonious manner. Taking this on board would prevent the strife, dissatisfaction and even disaster which your pushiness or impetuosity can attract.

Your style of relationship is balanced and fair, with yourself and Other having equal say in all matters - very much the partnership, in fact. Despite what you might think to the contrary - that being your way of thinking - other people tend to like to see you both as a couple, a social touchstone, even an example of how a relationship ought to work. What you need - despite your wilfulness, or rather because of it - is quite a conventional relationship, the social unit which your milieu comes to rely upon as 'always being there'. All this acts as a stabilizer to your dynamic persona, and as a safe haven to which you may return after one of your sorties.

When you are alone, it is because your selfish and inconsiderate behaviour has caught up with you and there are no takers. But your pushiness, although it can sometimes be downright rude or thoughtless, does not as a rule have any malice behind it. It is just that having to get your oar in first can lead to you being the only one on board. Seeing that the kind of Other you attract is usually a deferential, socially aware person, he / she will probably put up with you for quite some time, then unexpectedly turn the tables on you. It is important for you to soften your hard edge enough to let your softness show, rather than being seen by Other as a challenge or a threat.

(John Townley)

With this position you are likely to be quite aggressive in relationships; you are usually the one who makes the first move in an affair. Even if that is not the case, you do take the lead in exploring and developing the relationship.

Your main concern is to get to the essence, physical or emotional, of the affair, without bantering and beating about the bush. Physical foreplay is not so important to you, but you should try not to be impatient with your lover in this, for you might miss the intensity of passion that you seek, which you value most highly.

This position makes you stand out in a room full of people; you can't help but be the

centre of attention, socially. But for a permanent partner, you should find someone who is quieter and more reticent in order to balance your dominant tendencies. You are likely to be quite competitive socially, but if you choose a lover of similar temperament, your bedroom will turn into a battleground.

You are best suited to someone who will let you take the initiative, ideally a person with Venus prominent in his chart. Such a partner would soften intense feelings, which would make for a lasting, loving relationship.

(Robert Hand)

You are a free spirit who likes to do things your own way and to be first whenever possible. No matter how you are feeling inside, you always try to act energetic, active and self-assertive. Sometimes this is more mask than reality; and if you feel like being calm, gentle and serene, do so, for it is not inappropriate.

You like to compete with others, especially in one-to-one situations. Competitiveness may carry you far in life, if you can accept losing gracefully and if you learn to co-operate when necessary. Co-operating is sometimes a problem because you are so independent.

When you feel depressed or unhappy, you do not like to show it. Instead, you are likely to make joke about your mood, letting others know that you do not take it seriously. Others will like you for the positive energy that you radiate and for the fact that you don't drag others down when you feel bad. At the same time, your lighthearted attitude about your feelings may make it hard to get sympathy when you really need it.

You tend to be rash and impulsive, acting first and thinking later. At your best you are courageous, but at your worst you are reckless. Learn to be a little more thoughtful about your actions.

You will fight for what you believe in, so it is important to think carefully about your beliefs, so that your energies will go to a good cause.

A sign on the Ascendant expresses itself in a different way from a Sun sign. However, some of the same characteristics, if only the childhood experiences, will apply if you have the Sun in Aries or in the first house. They may be present if you have Mars in Aries or in the first house; if your Moon is in Aries, your emotions and reactions will have an Arian flavour. If the Ascendant is weak, the Aries overly will not be so noticeable. If the rest of the birthchart is very different from the rising sign, there could be a conflict of personality. This is because the outer manner, as displayed by the signals which are given out on first meeting the subject, is different from the main character which lies underneath. However, Aries is so direct and open that this is far less likely to be the case than with some of the other Ascendants. Another possibility is that the subject rejects all that his parents, parent figures and teachers stood for, and creates a life for himself which is very different from the one which they envisaged for him, or from the one he lived through as a child.

Remember that this sign is cardinal, which implies the start of anything, and also a Fire sign, which implies enthusiasm and impulsiveness. It is masculine / positive in its approach, which suggests an outwardly extrovert nature. Aries rising is a sign of short ascension which means that it only applies in the northern hemisphere for a very short period of time in any day - therefore only a few British people are born each day with this sign on the Ascendant.

If you are one of these rare creatures, the chances are that there was something missing in your childhood. Many Aries rising children are born into military families who move about from one place to another. They may also spend a part of each year at boarding school. The child experiences feelings of strangeness, dislocation and distance from the parents. Self-reliance and some measure of self-centredness are natural for Aries risers, even if their childhood experiences don't force this upon them; and this can make it difficult for them to form successful family relationships later on.

The Aries riser may opt for a life in the services where he becomes part of a larger family-type group. Several years ago, I did a horoscope for a rather sturdy-looking middle-aged lady who was coming to the end of a service career. She told me that it had been a good life full of travel and good fellowship, and that she wasn't quite sure what she was going to do with her time now that she was a civilian once more.

Aries risers who grow up in a normal, stay-at-home family often experience discord and conflict. There may be a difficult relationship between the child and his parents; this is especially true of the father / son relationship. There can't be two bosses in one family; and, in this case, neither wants to concede any kind of authority to the other. It is quite usual for the two to be very different in character with little real understanding between them. It seems that neither can really approve of the other; and there could be some pretty noisy disagreements.

Paul, an Aries rising guy, cut himself off from his parents as soon as he grew up, and has had as little as possible to do with them ever since. Diana, another Aries rising subject, had quite a good childhood but never became close to her father. Her older sister worshipped him and couldn't see any wrong in him (at least until much later in life) whereas Diana could see him warts and all and therefore experienced a far cooler relationship with him. It is worth remembering that an Arian nature makes for a noisy, bouncy and rather bumptious child whose restless behaviour and argumentative ways can aggravate even the most saintly of parents.

In some cases, the parents are sporty and adventurous by nature, encouraging a kind of gung-ho bravery in the child. This is all very well if the child is also an outdoor and athletic type; but if he isn't, the parents will write him off as an over-timid wimp. This situation is even more likely to work the other way around. One such example is Miriam who was brought up in a classically calustrophobic pre-war Jewish family where both her parents and her sister studiously avoided anything which might involve the slightest hint of danger. In addition to this, her mother coddled her younger sister. Miriam wasn't the kind to encourage coddling, being a raw-boned athletic type of child who ran up, climbed on and jumped off everything at the slightest opportunity. On those occasions when she found herself in real trouble - stuck up a tree, for example - her mother's reaction was to fall down in a faint. This, to Miriam's eyes, confirmed her opinion that her mother was useless and ineffective. Incidentally, at the time of writing Miriam is still leaping about now that she is in her eighties! Human nature being totally contrary, Miriam still feels that she was unnecessarily deprived of the love and approval of her parents.

Women who have this rising sign have a masculine outlook on life, which may lead them to experience difficulty in adapting to the traditional feminine role. This does not imply that all Aries rising women are raving lesbians; on the contrary, these women get on very well with men, enjoying their company and sharing their interests. Some women prefer not to marry, either living an independent life with or without boyfriends, or finding happiness withing a military career. I imagine that the rather hearty kind of nun who enjoys fixing the convent's vehicles might be an Aries rising subject. Thos who do marry and have a family need an interesting career

outside the home in order to sop up their extra energy and give them something worthwhile to do. Fortunately, these days there is plenty of scope for the extrovert, enthusiastic Aries woman to have the unrestricted independent kind of lifestyle that she needs.

When I take a look at Aries rising or even Sun in Aries subjects in reality rather than by blindly following the rules of astrology, I find a common theme. Many of you come from small families who themselves have little contact with their own relatives, either because your parents moved away from the area where their own relatives lived, or because they chose to cut themselves off from them. The Arian child, therefore, doesn't have the opportunity of benefiting from a wider family group; and this leaves him with only his parent's views and values to fall back on. Frequently these values are distorted and lacking in common sense. Furthermore, the Arian child is often an only child, or so separated in age and type from the other siblings that he feels like an only child.

It is likely that one or both parents disliked you or saw no value in you. There was no discernible reason for this; you were simply viewed as an irritation or an inconvenience. This leads many of you to seek self-validation through marriage, often marrying young and choosing an older partner, or someone who is deemed to be wiser and more competent at the game of life. If the marriage doesn't work out, you may begin to philander. There is no guarantee that second or subsequent relationships work out either, unless you are able to go through a good deal of self-analysis and reach a stage where you can finally throw off the distorted lessons of your childhood.

Some Arians succeed in one-to-one relationships, but go on to face difficulties in relating to their children. The Arian never quite grows up enough to be able to cope with the role of parent; and, therefore, either leans too far towards the position of authority and dominance, becoming a bully towards his own children, or overdoes the nurturing role by clinging to them and sacrificing on their behalf for far too long. Where the MC is in Capricorn, it seems as if the 'pulling factor' at the top of the chart (Capricorn) leads to too much authority, while in other cases the 'pulling factor' at the bottom of the chart (Cancer) leads to too much clinging.

However, nothing stays the same forever; children grow up and relationships come and go. With a bit of luck you can learn from life and finally make some kind of viable relationship which brings you pleasure. Perhaps in compensation, Aries subjects often have a good friend or two, while others make a viable 'family' out of a couple of pet animals.

Basically this is neither the best nor the worst sign to have on the Ascendant. There may have been loneliness in childhood but this seems to breed Arian self-reliance and doesn't usually cause you to have any difficulty in relating to others later on in life. Aries is a sociable sign and, on the whole, a cheerful and optimistic one.

Bearing in mind racial differences, family tendencies and the influence of the rest of your birthchart, the Aries influence would suggest a shortish stature with a strong and muscular body (which may run to fat later); your arms and shoulders are strong, and you can lift and carry surprisingly heavy weights for your size. Your face is broad across the eyes and maybe rounded with a rather large head for your body. Arian eyes are neither protruding nor deep set; they stare out honestly from under thick, arched eyebrows. Aries rising women can do a lot with eye make-up as there is a rather large and flat area of eyelid to play with. The hair may be reddish in colour, quickly going grey. Men of this sign lean towards baldness - well, they do say that bald men are sexy! Women may moan about their thin and awkward hair which needs

much perming and colouring in order to keep it looking good. Arians don't, as a rule, have much body hair.

Being a palmist as well as an astrologer, I tend to notice people's hands. Arian hands are small and graceful even in those cases when they are plump. The finger-nails have a characteristic 'A' shape, being much wider at the tip than at the cuticle end. These hands are used so elegantly that an Aries-type guy can quite mistakenly be taken as being gay! Most Arians walk quickly and move fast. They are graceful and light on their feet, which may add to their slightly feminine appearance. Don't be taken in; these guys are far from being gay - though they might be very cheerful, especially when making love to an attractive woman.

Aries women are also graceful and are often good dancers. They too are unlikely to be gay despite the fact that their mental outlook is adventurously masculine. Their quick wit and ready smile, plus their somewhat childlike appearance, is quite endearing to the opposite sex.

You present yourself in a cheerful, friendly, non-hostile manner, but may find it hard to conceal your contempt for those whose minds and actions are slower than your own. Not being easily influenced, you prefer to make up your own mind about everything, and you can appear rather opinionated. Others see you as quick, clever and courageous; but they may become annoyed by your tendency to push yourself to the front of every queue and to fight for the best of whatever is going. Your sense of humour and child-like appeal can help you get away with murder - especially with the opposite sex.

If yours is a strong rising sign, you will display a fair amount of Aries behaviour. You are probably the most capable and energetic person in your family, prepared to fight for their rights, and look after their interests, against all comers. Your career is important to you, and you use your earnings in order to give the members of your family what they need. Arians think, move and walk quickly; many enjoy speed for its own sake and cannot get by without owning a fast car. Being quick to take action and to throw your enthusiasm behind any venture, you sometimes step on the toes of slower, more sensitive types. Being honest and frank, others always know where they stand with you; and on occasion you can be too honest for comfort because lies and prevarication don't come easily to you.

There is a tendency to argumentativeness; it might just be that you enjoy a stimulating debate, but some of you will argue about anything. Your temper erupts quickly but usually settles down just as quickly; and thankfully, you don't sulk. Oddly enough, you prefer a rather structured life; you cannot cope with too much change except for those changes which you yourself initiate, and neither can you take too much adversity. When too many pressures arise at once, your natural ebullience and confidence evaporate, leaving you to fall back on other steady members of the family for support. Some Aries rising subjects lash out when angry and give whoever is in the way either a verbal bashing or, worse still, a physical one.

There is a strange need for you to spoil yourself or to be spoiled by others. Perhaps this stems from your slightly neglected childhood. Arians love gadgetry; the current age of Japanese wizardry is just made for you. You may spend your money on expensive sports equipment which you never actually find the time or the patience to use properly. Certainly you will spend money on your hobbies, whatever they may be, always making sure that you have the best equipment which can be bought. Some Arians spend money on household gadgets, abandoning them if they are found to be useless. A new car, boat, caravan or any other kind of vehicle is always an exciting buy.

Natal Ascendant in Taurus

(Bernice Grebner)

First Decanate (Taurus-Taurus): They can be either lazy or stubbornly determined in any activity that involves self-projection. In any event, their activity slows up here. These people are sensuous and pleasant until provoked. They are exceptionally loyal to loved ones.

With the Descendant in Scorpio-Scorpio, they can be jealous and very possessive of their loved ones. There is no way they will stray from the fold if they are satisfied sexually. They may keep secrets from their partners, but the partners must not keep secrets from them. They have a very strong moral code concerning sexual conduct in marriage.

Second Decanate (Taurus-Virgo): This gives great determination to serve others in a very practical manner. They have mighty struggles concerning their projection into active participation in the world. This self-projection is much more motivated through love of a friend, family, or romantic partner. They are then creative with their activity rather than critical.

With the Descendant in Scorpio-Pisces, they may be called upon to make certain sacrifices for their partners. The partner is very important to them, not only physically but also emotionally and mentally. Partnership in marriage has to be right or they suffer inwardly, eventually affecting the health. The mere fact that they hide their tempers does not mean that they don't have them. They certainly do... and eventually you find this out.

Third Decanate (Taurus-Capricorn): Here the drive to project the self into personal activity is for success. They desire to project a self that is mastered and skillful; and they do so by being proud of their instinctive knowledge of higher truths and higher disciplines.

With the Descendant in the Scorpio-Cancer, they have deep possessive feelings for their marriage partners and the people around them. They may keep secrets from their partners or their associates, but you had better not keep any secrets from them. They are loyal, very protective, sympathetic, and tenacious. Although they may encounter changes within their relationships, they remain loyal; their marriages endure. They need strong sexual and emotional satisfaction. Because it is difficult for them to release close relationships, they suffer greatly if things go wrong. This may bring the tendency to mother - or smother - the marriage partner.

(Sepharial and Muchery)

First Decanate: It gives a highly-endowed mind, poetical and creative fancy, amiable disposition, steadfast affections, intuitive faculty, fondness for the artistic and beautiful in form and colour; a sensuous love of life, desire for comfort, ease and luxury, but capable of sustained efforts of a mental nature. It gives success in drama, music, fine arts, and secures the patronage of women.

Second Decanate: This decan gives a changeful and romantic disposition, strong imagination, fine feelings, love of pleasure, fondness for dainty foods and good living generally; it confers the favour of women of position, and renders the native successful in travelling; disposes to artistic and poetical pursuits. It conduces to wealth and the acquisition of property.

Third Decanate: Dependence and servitude, poverty or extreme difficulty in the attainment of wealth are the fruits of this decan. It renders the nature sensitive and languishing; leads to disappointment in love affairs; overthrows the ambitions, and destroys the pleasures of domestic and married life. It produces enemies, and renders the life generally very unfortunate. It gives, however, much depth of feeling and fidelity in attachments.

Physical Qualities: Taurus gives a strong neck and shoulders, often a stoop; pensive brows, full lips and nostrils; dark, curling or wavy hair; dull forehead; heavy jaws. The stature is somewhat short, with a thick-set body, inclined to stoutness; the features are rugged and the appearance squat. The eyes are rather round and inclined to be prominent and watery, with long lashes and thick eyebrows. The hands and feet are short and broad.

Mental Qualities: Amorous, passionate, determined; laborious, patient; proud, obstinate. From the moral standpoint the influence is benefic. The native is steadfast, persevering, firm and yet gentle, unless his anger is aroused, when he may then become very violent. His ideals, though not specially noble, are not materialistic; he is a good listener and can keep his own counsel, so that even if his education is not superior, he can acquire a certain degree of veneer as he advances in years, thanks to his adaptability. This position indicates progress in worldly matters through the native's own efforts. He has a practical and organising mind, and is equally well suited for business as for the management of property, or for a political career.

(Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

Taureans can express their potential for power through their financial dealings, and through structuring material and resources. They love the good things of life and create beauty in some form.

With Scorpio on the seventh house cusp, Taureans are attracted to power and status. They seek energetic partners, those who excel in creative expression and the power to accomplish. However, they must guard against jealousy, combativeness, and possessiveness with partners. Coinciding with the Scorpio need for regeneration where partners and the public is concerned is the need for spiritual detachment.

(Dane Rudhyar)

With Taurus at the Ascendant, a person normally discovers his true nature through productivity, at one level or another. He or she produces and tends to cling to the products. There may be a thorough identification with both the process of production and the person or group whose needs this process will satisfy. There may be not only a fixity of purpose, but pride in accomplishments, biological or social, and as a result a good deal of self-centredness and a somewhat narrow horizon. Still, within the particular field of production in which it is the dharma of the individual to operate, great results can be obtained. Spiritually or even psychologically speaking, the problem is not to become too personally attached to the results of one's activity, and to allow nature or life to act through one's person.

A Taurus Ascendant implies inevitably a Scorpio Descendant. The individual will have to surrender at least partially his ego attachment to his own products by relating to persons who have a more social vision or who need to experience the spontaneous and natural release of organic energies. Such relationships strengthen the part of his nature that seeks broader horizons and in many cases a more conscious and controlled approach to productivity - also a more responsible approach in terms of

group purpose. The individual may seek partners through whom he may become more fully aware of larger social, moral, or political issues.

(Howard Sasportas)

If Taurus, a fixed Earth sign, is on the Ascendant, then life needs to be met more slowly and steadily. Rather than rushing into things, Taurus rising should plan, structure and work systematically towards its goals. The fixity of this sign on the Ascendant suggests that the person may need to hold onto or remain in one phase of experience much longer than Aries rising types. The danger is becoming too lazy or indolent and staying with something purely out of habit, attachment, and security when it has truly outlived its purpose or usefulness. It will be necessary for the Taurus rising to learn when to hold on and when to let go.

Those with Taurus rising also have a need to feel comfortable with the earthy and material sphere of life, and to see concrete and tangible results for their efforts. A sensible regard for the body and its requirements should be developed. Being too driven or ruled by the instincts is not the ideal, but cutting the self off from the basic instinctual nature is not a healthy situation either.

When Taurus is ascending, then Scorpio is found on the Descendant. This means that strong and intense emotions (Scorpio) will be evoked in the sphere of relationship. Jealousy and possessiveness can be the root of many interpersonal problems; and those with Taurus rising will have to confront, examine and gain mastery over the destructive side of their emotional nature. In other words, Scorpio on the 7th house cusp forces them to look inward, to probe hidden motivations and underlying causes in order to transform the way they use their power. The Scorpio Descendant does not allow them to take life at face value. Through relationship problems they are jarred from their lethargy and periodically required to cleanse and eliminate what they have stored up inside, changing old and outworn habit patterns.

I have noticed two different physical types associated with Taurus on the Ascendant. The more usual embodiment of this sign is solid, earth-looking, and heavy-set: a healthy, 'country' look just right for 'a roll in the hay' or a Falstaffian appearance, often with the characteristically thick Taurean neck. On the other hand, some Taurus rising individuals exhibit a more delicate and chiselled look, emphasizing the aesthetic side of the Venus rulership of the sign.

(Jeanne Avery)

The person with Taurus rising is really a country squire at heart. His deepest desire is to acquire his own piece of land, whether large or small, because he needs to feel that special connection to the earth. A pastoral scene can be as inspiring to him as a beautiful painting would be to someone else. He is very loving, affectionate, steadfast, and loyal. His needs are basic: he wants good food, good sex, and a nice place to live.

The symbol of Taurus is the bull. More specifically, he is Ferdinand the bull. If you remember, Ferdinand was very happy to sit in the meadow, smelling the flowers and enjoying a cool summer breeze. But along came a bee to sting Ferdinand out of his reverie. It was then that he showed his bull-like nature and let out a mighty roar. Pawing the ground, with flames flaring from his nostrils, he reacted with a temper that is characteristic of one with this ascendant. Like Ferdinand, the person with Taurus rising is content and easygoing to a point, but when goaded beyond his point of endurance, he will let out the mightiest bellow in the zodiac. His temper can be so violent, unfurled in its fullest fury, that he scares even himself.

The ruler of Taurus is Venus. Venus is the planet that is associated with love, beauty, ease of living, graciousness, and charm. It is the planet that rules the arts. In its positive sense, Venus indicates tact, diplomacy, and sociability. In its negative interpretation, it indicates laziness and self-indulgence. Taurus is an Earth sign, indicating practicality, and is fixed and determined.

The Taurian 'earth' Venus is quite different in its manifestation from the 'airy' Venus of Libra. The Libran Venus is more aesthetic and intellectual. The individual with Taurus rising is more inclined toward acquisition than self-expression in connection with the arts. There are exceptions, of course. Since Taurus rules the throat area and Venus rules beauty, this person is blessed with a naturally beautiful voice. He may express himself through singing, speaking, or acting. Another form of expression involves architecture. The Taurus rising is a builder at heart. His practical nature takes joy in erecting houses or monuments. But perhaps the greatest outlet he finds is in preparing food. Cooking becomes an art form when Taurus rising is concerned. He may never attend a school of Escoffier, but his natural ability leads him to gourmet excellence. His taste in anything can be superb, but he has a special sense about food, wine, and good living.

The person with Taurus rising is a hard-working individual, carving his life out of the earth in a special way. He has great strength, is steadfast and loyal. His endurance is unsurpassed. He has a strong attachment to the earth plane and all its abundance, and will work very hard to secure that abundance. He wants to stay connected to the ground in a strong way; it's his way of being safe. His reward is the pleasure of good companionship over good food with a roaring fire in the background. He wants to celebrate his victory and success with those he loves, sharing the fruits of the earth with them. He loves the good life and wants pleasure and graciousness of living above almost anything else.

Taurus is the second sign of the zodiac. The second house in a chart is the house of finance. Taurus is one of the 'money' signs'. He can be a financial wizard. His desire to excel in financial matters has to do with his need for building security. He is never impressed by wealth, either his own or that of others; material success, being able to wrest a living out of the ground, is simply his way of staying attached to the earth. His acquisition of money is connected to his desire to build a foundation from which he can continue to fortify his position and grow. The world provides a feast for one with a Taurus ascendant. He wants to be able to enjoy his share of all the beauty.

The culture of the Egyptian age flourished under the sign of Taurus. The symbol of the bull is featured in many artifacts and artworks from that time. The building of the great pyramids is tremendously symbolic of the steadfastness and determination of one with Taurus on the rise. The building instincts are strong and sure. This native may appear to be plodding and obstinate to the casual observer, yet as with the tortoise and the hare, the slow and steady progress of the Taurus rising will outlast swifter-footed signs, who burn themselves out along the way. Step by step, with an endurance that puts a weaker soul to shame, he gathers his strength to forge his monument. It will last, and weather the storms of centuries. Like the Egyptians, he prepares well for his eventual departure from the earth. In those days, the tombs were complete when there was sufficient wealth to ensure the departed one material comfort in the other life. The person with this ascendant wants to line his 'temples' with his earthly acquisitions as well. He is a collector of things that represent security to him, whether it be stamps and records or objets d'art. He always has an insurance policy in his collections. It is hard for him to break his attachment to things. He wants them, just to have them.

The manifestation of Venus concerns the desire and love nature. When a person has Taurus rising, this desire nature is well developed. In fact, his decisions about survival have to do with his desires. Desire is the thing that helps him out of any tendency to inertia. He craves physical touch and is safe when he has it. He is tremendously sensual, earthy, and demonstrative. It is perhaps his well-developed love nature that inclines him to love and marriage early on. He will work hard, motivated by his love for his family.

Sometimes the Taurus rising's strong desire nature can bind him too tightly to the earth. He can become engrossed in his material existence, which obscures an overall perspective about a deeper meaning of life. If Venus is well aspected in his chart, he eventually uses that desire nature as a first step toward true illumination. That desire can be transmuted into universal love by first realizing the higher meaning of aspiration. It is then a short step toward spiritual love. Any selfishness is transmuted into selflessness. One with this ascendant wants to enjoy gracious living and lifestyle. But the transmutation of love for family may be extended to the entire human family in some cases.

If Venus is not well aspected in the chart, there is a strong likelihood that one with this ascendant can be mired in materialism on a completely negative level. He will be pigheaded and obstinate without any reason. His obsession with physical needs and the functions of the sexual energy can include low forms of humor, jokes about the love nature, and bawdy comedy. His bullheaded tendencies lead him to experiences that fulfill his sexual needs but not his spiritual ones.

A Taurus ascendant is easily spotted by checking out the appearance. The eyes can be 'cow-like', round and rimmed. The hairline, too, can be easily recognized. As it recedes, it forms a peak in the front, almost like allowing room for the horns to grow. The Taurean beauty is of an earthy nature - a lustiness coupled with a certain kind of sensual charm. Sometimes the neck tends to be quite thick, but broad shoulders balance the thickness nicely. The personality of one with this rising sign is pleasant and sociable, but the dead giveaway is his stubborn quality. Once he plants his feet, that will be that. Reason will not convince him to change his mind, and he cannot be swayed. He may not even know why he has suddenly called a halt to any further progress. There is simply no budging him when he has had enough.

Children with this ascendant require lots of affection. They exhibit a sensual quality even as little ones. The social nature seems well developed and their charm can melt even the coldest hearts. They are beautiful in appearance, with a sweetness that belies the temper lurking just beneath the surface. They are collectors early in life. Their survival decisions have much to do with the affection they require, and with the desire to please. If they are cuddled and loved, they fulfill their potential beyond all expectations. They are hard workers, perhaps even enjoying household duties if the jobs can be made appealing and special. They need to be encouraged to express their artistic tendencies. If their sociable, outgoing personality can find a creative outlet, either through art or through theatre, they receive the love and attention they crave from many people and in a healthy way. They can be urged out of any lethargy by expressing an artistic talent. They need to associate with people, perhaps of all ages. A certain amount of freedom of the right kind, early in life, will channel their social needs in the right direction. They are fun to be around, pure delight and pleasure, as long as they are given free rein. If they are coerced, the stubborn, bull-like quality will emerge in full force. This child will show true loyalty as long as he is well loved and well treated. He responds to love with a full heart, spurred on to greater achievement by appreciation. He needs to spend time in the country, close to the earth that gives him such a sense of security.

Taurus rules the throat and the voice. Not only is the person blessed with a pleasant speaking voice, but if Venus is well aspected in the chart, he has a ways with words, can express himself easily, and may be fluent in vocabulary and languages. The throat chakra is the power centre, so if one with this rising sign is in touch with his power on an esoteric level, he influences people far and wide, perhaps without knowing exactly how. He can develop a singing voice if he so chooses, but even without formal training, his vocal ability is more comprehensive than even he is aware of.

The greatest temptation of one with this rising sign is pleasure. That can include pleasure of the sight, taste, touch, and feelings. With Venus ruling the sensual nature, it is almost impossible for him to resist anything that promises delight. It is up to the individual to find healthy, productive ways to enjoy himself and feed his pleasure needs. One with this ascendant needs routine, for routine is a way of establishing more security. Self-discipline convinces him that he can do what he sets out to do. He has great respect for discipline, perhaps because it is his antidote for lethargy and self-indulgence. Interestingly enough, the astrological antidote for Venus is Saturn. When too much 'Venusian' temptation comes into view, a 'Saturnian' discipline is essential. The converse is also true. When things are too heavy and routine, boring and detailed, a little pampering will go a long way toward making things easier. The end result is balance. The old saying 'All work and no play...' could not be more fitting for one with Taurus on the rise - although the translation 'All play and no work...' is just as apt at times.

Children with this ascendant thrive on the combination of cuddling and hugging coupled with strong discipline. A structured time provides the security that roots and grounds him. Almost as if proof of the pudding, I overheard a conversation my son, with Taurus on the ascendant, was having with a parent of a young child who was momentarily misbehaving. As the child's screams got louder, the lack of action impelled David to talk about how he would handle the situation. He began to talk about his childhood. He started: 'My mother was so tough, if she said no, she meant no and there was no getting around her'. To my great surprise, I heard a note of pride creep into his voice as he continued discussing his theories about child raising. Since he had plenty of hugging and affection, evidently the discipline was something he respected and enjoyed. Enforced time structure enables a child with this ascendant to find a median between duty and desire. If he is reassured that he is responsible and reliable as well, he will be free to indulge himself in healthy ways, and to allow himself reward for his diligence. After the Taurus rising works hard to till the soil, he will be able to enjoy the fruits of his harvest.

In an individual chart, difficult aspects to Venus from other planets can modify the personality traits to a degree. Usually, those conflicting energies can impel the individual with this ascendant to want peace at any price, avoid making waves, and tend to take the easy way out. He can appear to be lazy, self-indulgent, and determined to go with sensuality to the exclusion of all else. Aspects to the planet Pluto can make him compulsively pleasure-seeking. With negative aspects to Neptune, the individual is naive, somewhat unrealistically on cloud nine. He may look through rose-colored glasses and be unwilling to confront anything. With difficult aspects to Uranus, this native will be more impulsive, rebellious, and unpredictable than usual. He may have difficulty staying closely connected to the earth he needs so much. Saturn aspects form a natural antidote, enabling the Taurus rising to handle great responsibility and be more able to conform to routine and pressure. If Saturn is really heavy in the chart, the individual can be too hard on himself. He may have guilt about expressing his pleasure-loving nature to the fullest extent.

Since there is a tendency to overindulge in gourmet foods and fine wines, the one

with Taurus ascendant needs exercise. He can be somewhat lackadaisical in taking care of his body, unless his working routine compels him to exercise as a matter of course. Again the discipline of pleasurable physical activity can counteract the effect his overindulgence has on his overall appearance. With such a strong tendency to enjoyment of food, he can gain a great deal of weight without realizing it. Although this is not one of the signs that is thought of as overweight, any tendency to laziness will only make it harder to maintain the ideal weight.

Natal Ascendant in Gemini

(Bernice Grebner)

First Decanate (Gemini-Gemini): The physical energy for self-projection is scattered, and hence loses some of its power. Actions are too quickly made. Energy and passions are too easily spent. They need to relax often or they become extremely nervous. They themselves are actually similar to Mercury for they feel a continual movement within them. They also must learn to take more deep breaths. There is a tendency for shallow breathing.

With Sagittarius-Sagittarius on the 7th house cusp, these people can never be bound too closely by the marriage partner. They have original and independent views on marriage. They will marry someone who can be a friend as well as someone to share ideas. They feel that if they have this companionship in marriage, sex will take care of itself. They may do a lot of travelling with the partner, or on behalf of the partner. They are liberal with others and expect the same treatment from them. They stand firm for integrity, honesty, and moral loyalty in marriage - even though at times they do not want to be held too tightly.

Second Decanate (Gemini-Libra): They want to come first, for they like approbation and want to be applauded for what they do. They love their children but they would rather show them off to reflect themselves. They like to have fun and games and enjoy the dramatic. Being charming is their middle name.

With the Sagittarius-Aries on the Descendant, they must have partners who will also want to be on the go. They like friends and marriage partners who enlarge upon or follow up their ideas. They need broadminded partners who understand their continual bursts of enthusiasm and short-lived efforts with constructive projects.

Third Decanate (Gemini-Aquarius): This position gives great enthusiasm and a good sense of humor. There is a tendency to scatter energy. The need is to use this energy for higher education instead of using it on escapades of adventure. The image they project is up to them.

With the Sagittarius-Leo on the Descendant, even after they are married they roam freely because they love to communicate and entertain the people around them. Their need for self-expression supersedes everything else. They love people and they should marry someone who loves them just as much; otherwise they are in trouble emotionally. This is the person who cannot marry just anyone. There is a specific formula for giving and receiving freedom and a special type of loving. They sometimes have too many interests, so it is difficult for them to narrow down the number of partners. If partners understand this nature, they will never leave; but if they are pushed, they want to break loose. Let them be the grand entertainers in the neighborhood or in their social group, and they will be happy.

(Sepharial and Muchery)

First Decanate: This confers a humane and generous disposition, but unfortunate. Makes a man his own enemy; gives too much self-confidence, and leads to self-hurt. The subject of this decan becomes his own enemy in many ways. He is capable of rising by his own merits. The mind is generous and the intellect strong, but the judgement is perverted, and misfortunes through enemies are less to be feared than misfortunes through the wrong use of one's own faculties. It gives oratorical powers and taste for judicial and legal pursuits, as well as for literature; but it is not a fortunate decan.

Second Decanate: This decan gives a quarrelsome and violent nature, predisposed to acts of ingratitude and wantonness. The life is filled with useless strife and unprofitable discussion; and the interests are apt to be misplaced, and the faculties, which are very acute, misapplied. It gives hurts and dangers in travelling; confers favours from martial persons, and gives sickness and fevers through acts of indiscretion.

Third Decanate: It confers success in the study of literature and science; gives brilliance of intellect, fame, but small fortune; many journeys; helpful relations; an anxious, restless life, but eventual success in literary or artistic pursuits.

Physical Qualities: Gemini makes the native tall above the average, slender and elegant, with well-developed muscles and long limbs; gives long fingers and a straight, generally long nose; a wide forehead; a long face; a highly colored complexion but fair skin; dark hair; often fine, expressive eyes; great vitality and physical stamina. The gait and movements are rapid and the voice will be clear and of a pleasant tone.

Mental Qualities: Artistic, learned, dexterous in the manual crafts, inventive; curious, subtle; eloquent in speech or writing; much occupied; humane. The intellect will be fine and sympathetic, and very quick at grasping things. A certain precipitation in everything will enable the native to learn quickly. His visual memory is excellent, but he cannot remember names, unless the Moon occupies this sign. The defect of those born with Gemini in the Ascendant is that they are shy, lacking in self-confidence, and do not push themselves forward, in spite of their innate pride and ambition. Success often comes through this sign, and the native progresses through his own merit; although luck, of which he knows how to avail himself in his own interests, often helps him. He is usually practical, without despising idealistic things. He is a man of refined tastes, and a lover of beautiful things, but he also appreciates the money which can procure them.

(Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

Geminis are original and creative thinkers and tend to dominate their circles intellectually. They also have the power to visualize their ideas and express them scientifically. Since they tend to identify themselves with their ideas, their most dynamic form of expression is intellectual.

With Sagittarius on the 7th house cusp, Geminis tend to emphasize ethical, religious, and philosophical values when choosing personal affiliations. They are usually lucky in marriage and have good relations with the public.

(Dane Rudhyar)

A Gemini Ascendant often indicates an avidity for knowledge and the deep-rooted expectation that it is through knowledge and a multiplicity of sensations and contacts that one will discover one's own individual identity. Indeed, the use of thought

processes will be very important, but the danger is that one may be caught in a web of small concerns, logical statements, experiments, and lost in a maze of information which, while well ordered, may be empty of larger meaning and unconcerned with social consequences. The Sagittarius Descendant suggests that relationships should be based on a larger scheme of values. Sagittarius provides Gemini with its abstract frames of reference, its logical concepts, its dissatisfaction with the near-at-hand and the temporarily fashionable. It makes possible an expansion of consciousness through relationship. The personally assimilated information, even the mental awareness of one's essential nature, should be put to use in terms of human fellowship and a sharing of values with greater minds.

(Howard Sasportas)

If Gemini is rising, life should be met with inquisitiveness, curiosity, and the desire to figure out how people and things work. Versatility and adaptability are two of Gemini's assets, but can give rise to too many diverse interests and the 'jack of all trades and master of none' syndrome. This Ascendant hates to lose alternatives; and being committed to one thing means excluding so many others.

Developing the ability to communicate through writing, speaking or any other form of exchanging ideas contributes to their sense of identity as well as increasing their impact on the environment. In some way, they are meant to distribute information, picking up certain ideas or attributes in one place and then depositing and applying these to other areas. If the rest of the chart is of an earthy or watery nature, the ability to be analytical, detached and objective is even more of a pressing need. However, if the rest of the chart is already airy and fiery, then this Rising sign adds to the restlessness of the nature and the difficulty of staying in one place long enough to truly deepen the understanding of that sphere or to become a real authority in that area. There is the danger of too quickly 'going into the head' and losing touch with the body and feelings.

If Gemini is rising, then Sagittarius is found on the 7th house cusp. Through a relationship, these people are offered another person's philosophical frame of reference through which to understand, explore and interpret life. The best partner is someone who can counter-effect Gemini's tendency to become lost in a maze of ideas or a web of inconsequentialities. The broader vision and aspirations of Sagittarius helps Gemini rising maintain a sense of direction and goal, rather than being consequently side-tracked. In short, other people often provide the sense of overall purpose which the Gemini Ascendant cannot find on its own.

Gemini rising is often embodied in a lithe, agile physique with slender hands, which when not busy gesticulating are clever at taking something apart and putting it back together again. The person may literally be 'of two minds' about many situations and even look like different people at different times. Often these people are adept at impersonating others.

People with this combination may use their acute minds and literary ability to promote their philosophical and social beliefs, or use their fact-finding Gemini Ascendants to detect and expose the broader trends (Sagittarius) at work in contemporary society.

(Jeanne Avery)

Life is never dull around a Gemini rising. One with this personable rising sign can keep you entertained for hours on end because he can't stand to be bored himself. He needs constant mental stimulation because his active mind simply will not rest.

Therefore, you'll find him surrounded by people, activity, and exciting situations. His keynote may well be: 'Life is just a bowl of cherries'. He is witty, amusing, and lots of fun.

The ruler of Gemini is the planet Mercury. This is the planet that indicates mentality, thought, speech. Since Gemini is an Air sign, the swiftness of the intellect is even more pronounced. The person with this ascendant is a fascinating conversationalist, as words and ideas are his speciality. The word 'mercurial' fits his facile mentality to a tee.

In mythology, Mercury was the messenger of the gods. Mercury was the servant and beloved of Jupiter. even though he frequently chose to use situations to his own end, he remained the interpreter to whom many secrets were entrusted. He could move with the speed of lightning and excelled in mental agility. It was very difficult, if not impossible, to pin him down and capture him. This analogy can help one understand the individual with Gemini ascending, as the personality can be puckish, mischievous, and tricky. Yet he bears no malice and holds no grudges. Like Mercury, he is hard to pin down, as his safety depends on quick flight. He can switch gears so quickly that you'll be unaware of what's happened. You're still pondering one situation while he has ascended to another plane and is off on another tack. You'll have to be on your toes at all times just to keep up with him. You may be in big trouble if you try to outsmart him, or enter into a contest of wit or will. Just occasionally, however, he goes one step too far and outsmarts himself.

The symbol of Gemini is the twins. A Gemini is accused of having a dual personality; indeed, he may actually be fickle. He probably feels safer if he has two situations in his life at once, whether in his personal life or in his business life. He can certainly switch gears and do two jobs more easily than someone less agile. However, the true duality has to do with his need to be close and his need to be objective at the same time. He is a walking example of the closeness-freedom syndrome. On the one hand, he needs love almost more than most people, but the minute he allows himself to become truly close to someone, his freedom is endangered. He then must pull away to become more objective.

Venus is the esoteric ruler of this sign. The person with Gemini rising is really looking for his true love. He searches endlessly, perhaps without really knowing why. He may not consciously feel he is lacking in any way. But in an intimate situation he keeps one eye on the horizon, just in case his true, true love should appear. It may be difficult for him to express his need for love, so his safety depends on his lack of total commitment. He is poised for flight at all times. He may be fickle only on a mental level, but you can be sure he has explored many avenues of exciting fantasy in his mind. His standard of virtue may be slightly different from that which is generally presumed. He can experiment in many ways without feeling the least bit disloyal. In fact, he would be astonished if you accused him of neglecting those close to him, even when his wandering eye takes him into deep water. He can be happily married and still need to have a tiny corner of his mind open to new possibilities. If the Gemini rising is truly in love, however, it is forever. If he feels safety in that love, he will devote himself unstintingly to its cause. His whole life will respond to the excitement of that attachment. He will be totally and wholly committed. He won't have to resort to words to express his feelings, for there is no-one so obviously ardent in love as the one with Gemini rising. It shines through his whole being when it's real. That may be the one time when words desert him altogether, for he'll have no need of their protection.

All signs have a negative and a positive expression, but perhaps none is more extreme and varied than with Gemini rising. Since it is a dual sign to begin with, its

duality takes on interesting colors. The level of evolution seems to manifest itself in the kind of mental activity he indulges in. The evolved type is dedicated to the uplifting of humanity. His keen insight and brilliance of achievement can produce great literature, drama, and poetry. His dynamic personality can vitalize words that remain meaningless otherwise. Some of the greatest contributions to literature, politics, music, and theatre have come from those with Gemini rising. When one with this ascendant is given a mission of the noblest nature, he is activated to use his brilliant mind to reach humanity on a profound level, but he must use his mental energy in constructive ways or his restlessness can get him into trouble.

The negative expression of the personality reveals a gossip, an instigator, and a game player. He can enjoy attracting people for the sake of the attention and to see what he can get from them. He is good at keeping others on a string, just for the fun of seeing how much he can rope them in and out. He may have the unfortunate tendency to run away from the very people who care the most. He can be a will-o'-the-wisp. The grass may always look greener on the other side of the fence. In his quest for exciting adventure, he may not care who gets hurt in the bargain. He is less concerned with others' feelings than with his own need for activity and variety. He can use people to his own ends. Actually, he is only concerned with his own life, his own observations, and his needs. He talks only about himself and his interest - and that barrage of words and frantic need for activity may well prevent him from standing still long enough to really face himself.

If he understands his true nature, it can be through this very restlessness that the Gemini rising learns and grows. In esoteric terms, the symbol of the twins is truly the duality of the human condition. Each man is both body and soul. When the inner adventure begins, and true integration occurs, the Gemini rising becomes one. The pull of the pair of polar opposites can be intense, causing the Gemini rising to swing rapidly like a pendulum, until he understands the necessity of bringing the spiritual and the mundane together within himself. His spiritual needs become as strong as his need to experience life. He finally learns how to provide himself with what he truly requires to become whole and fulfilled. He realizes that his true yearning and searching is for union with his inner and higher self. His spiritual growth becomes profound. True integration means never being bored again.

Until that time, it may appear that the Gemini rising talks from both sides of his mouth. That may very well be true. He not only sees both sides of the coin; he lives them. The confusion inside this individual can be profound until he has found his way. At the extreme, schizophrenic personalities exhibit some of these tendencies. The duality with the Gemini rising may be so intense that he cannot face some of the things he is doing, so he blocks out the negative and hides behind the positive. Avoidance of the ultimate experience of integration compels him to keep things moving in a very fast way. When he has had enough of the less than savory experiences he finds himself attracted to, he can come full swing and express his need for adventure in a different way. His total devotion to family and friends is obvious. He delivers a high spiritual and moral message by his behavior. He shares his depth of understanding and his joy.

This person should be allowed to follow an apparently erratic course, as this eventually leads him to his highest expression. He can appear irresponsible at times, as he will not allow himself to be trapped under heavy and dampening pressures. Drudgery or routine can squelch his enthusiasm and spirit faster than anything else. He needs to be valued and appreciated, but can't handle obligation. He may not be much help when sickness or problems arise. If pressure is brought to bear, or life temporarily deals him a difficult hand, this person may disappear for a period of time in order to sort things out and solve his own problems by himself. He will use this

quiet time to restore his perspective, gather his thoughts, recoup his boundless energy. He may look for greener pastures occasionally, just to test his theories, charm, and magnetism. He wants to be sure they still work so he can come back to you a more interesting personality. He may also pull away to remind you, in his own subtle way, that you really need him. Life can be a lot less colorful without him around.

When he is not on safe ground, or is in a less than safe situation, he can remove himself without ever leaving the scene. If this person decides to shut you out, his usual warmth disappears behind a cloud, and the chill that is left is very penetrating. You may wonder what you've said to displease him, or you may suspect he is angry or upset. If you force the attention back to you, he can resent the intrusion. He may not really know he has left you so far out in the cold; and then again, he may want to see how much he can get away with before you protest. Or he may simply be scared and feel the need to take a brief vacation from the threat of the moment.

Part of his enormous appeal and magnetism is that you never know quite where you stand with this individual. Just when you're about to take your relationship for granted, you'll find him behaving in his distant manner. When you decide he's bored and about to take flight, he'll come back in his most charming, gracious, and loving way to captivate you all over again. This kind of drama can prevent boredom in a most unusual - and exasperating - way. His attitude may appear to be 'out of sight, out of mind', for he deals with matters at hand. His concentration is intense, but he can immediately focus in on another topic. When you come into view again, he tunes in to the 'file' he has on you, and for the moment, at least, you receive his undivided attention. Quick changes are part of his personality and only occasionally is he really scattered, although to others' eyes that's how he can appear. Darting from one topic to another to challenge the restlessness of his intellect is the way his mind works best. He is a collector of trivia and random information. He can be a walking encyclopaedia. He is the one who remembers the lyrics to a song that everyone else has forgotten. The way to keep him intrigued is to be well informed about many subjects, but, above all, be a good listener.

It can be a tricky matter dealing with a tricky Gemini rising. He can outtalk you, outthink you, and probably outsmart you. He can certainly outmanoeuvre you. He'll only respect you if you can keep up with him, yet he won't like it if you get ahead of him. You can't let him get away with too much or you're no challenge; but you can't call him on everything or you'll be putting him under too much pressure and he'll simply walk away. He is probably waiting for you to break through his quicksilver façade and discover the depth that is waiting there, like buried treasure. If you take him at face value, you'll miss much of his true worth. It can be a challenge to keep up with all that energy, that spirited front, that duality, yet life will be a rich experience if your patience holds out. A sense of humor can help a great deal. Expect the best of him, overlook his transgressions, and you'll find a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

In the language of Transactional Analysis, Mercury relates to the adult ego state. The adult part of ourselves is the part that can collect facts, clearly say what we mean, disseminate information, and communicate. The individual with Mercury ruling the ascendant expresses his adult ego most easily. It can be extremely important to relate to a child with this rising sign on an intellectual level. If he is given permission early in life to express himself and is encouraged to utilize his restless, inquisitive mentality in experimentation on a high level, he will learn how to channel his thoughts in the right direction. It is essential to deal with this child on a totally honest level and to explain things to him. He is aware early on that he is an adult at a very young age. His salvation comes with self-expression. If he can clearly state his

needs, ask for what he wants, state opinions without fear of reprisal, he has a better chance of living up to his extraordinary potential. School will only be a problem for him if he finds it boring or slow. He is liable to skim the surface, however, leaving the drudgery and research to others. He wants to be on to more exciting territory. If he is not allowed to express his true curiosity or if life is fearful or tedious, his self-protection is to retreat into his fantasy life. He cannot take too much punishment or heavy judgement, for not only is he mercurial, but he is deeply sensitive.

Consider holding a ball of mercury in the palm of your hand. If you hold it gently, it nestles in one spot, but if you push your finger down, it simply slides away. This is what happens to a child with this ascendant when too much pressure is brought to bear. He slides into his rich imagination and retreats inside himself. Experimentation begins early on with one who has Gemini rising. This child needs to be surrounded by lofty but totally realistic values early in his life. He is more than desirous of pleasing his family and associates, but may show only what he thinks is acceptable. If his perceptions don't coincide with the family values, then he goes into hiding. He is a no-nonsense child and is very perceptive at an early age. He rarely becomes judgemental; he believes in 'live and let live'. You can appeal to him through logic and ideas, yet he arrives at his own truth through the process of epistemology. He wants to look at both sides of an issue and then make up his own mind.

Natal Ascendant in Cancer

(Bernice Grebner)

First decanate (Cancer-Cancer): These people project themselves with caution, for they fear being hurt. These people know how it feels to be hurt; therefore they tend to overprotect loved ones. There is a tendency to be active in a sporadic way, doing little jobs and then relaxing again until something or someone puts pressure on them. When hurt they tend to overreact; hence they usually gain weight.

With Capricorn-Capricorn on the Descendant, they may have marriage partners who are much older or more serious. They will endure unhappy marriages simply because they feel they should remain loyal. However, if Saturn is afflicted by aspect, the marriage may fail no matter how hard they try to keep it alive. They accept responsibility connected with marriage that other people do not. (For example, marriage to a woman who already has a child; or a sick parent to care for).

Second decanate (Cancer-Scorpio): This decanate gives more physical endurance than the Cancer-Cancer, and they can endure more emotional strain. They seem more secretive and mysterious than Cancer-Cancer and are much more proud in nature. They are apt to keep secrets and have a temper that flares when something goes wrong in connection with love affairs or their children.

With Capricorn-Taurus on the Descendant, they may be too conservative with the marriage partner, only to be big spenders where friends are concerned. The marriage partner needs to understand that friends are a basic need and are this person's richest resource. These people are loyal and devoted in friendship as well as in marriage. It works beautifully if the marriage partner is also a friend (or was a friend before marriage).

Third decanate (Cancer-Pisces): The projection into the 1st house is subject to the reception of spiritual impulses. They carry with them through these activities a strong need to be nurtured; and when all else has gone their self-sacrifice remains. They are consciously aware that their mother influence is instinctively with them, but their goals for self-projection seem to remain hidden. They are insatiable in their

desire to learn the eternal truths.

With Capricorn-Virgo on the Descendant, they attract ambitious partners. While they can be sentimental, the tendency toward criticism can restrict both partners in emotional expression. They may attract mates who will want to be protected and cared for, ones who either have health problems or are hypochondriacs.

(Sepharial and Muchery)

First decanate: A sociable and amiable disposition, generous character, kind and attractive nature; many friends; supporters among women of position; good social standing, and success in the artistic world. A fondness for pleasure and for personal decoration mark this decan of Cancer.

Second decanate: Gives a strong imaginative intellect; makes a clever writer, a lover of travel and learning; renders the native loquacious and sometimes a tattler, and confers wealth or fame by the use of the pen, but the native makes enemies by too free use of the tongue.

Third decanate: Love of romance, travelling, adventure, and mystical subjects. Gives public recognition and a certain popularity, honourable or otherwise, according to the position of the Moon at birth; gives many sea voyages and constant changes in life, the patronage of women, and acquisition of property

Physical qualities: Cancer gives a broad, round forehead, often high on account of the thin, sparse, prematurely falling hair; a wide chest and fleshy, plump or well-rounded body; a laborious walk, sometimes rolling or swaying; a full, rounded face, with a tendency to pendulous cheeks and a double chin in mature years. The stature is medium and the figure is often top-heavy; the hands and feet are small and plump. The veins show through the flesh and impart to it an attractive bluish tint. The native has nice teeth of a chalky color and dull appearance which will decay early in life because they are insufficiently protected by the enamel. The eyes are grey or bluish, watery and prominent; the nose is small and short; the distance between the nostrils and lower lip is inclined to be long.

Mental qualities: Changeful, roving disposition; ambitious, inclined to public life; prudent, sympathetic; imaginative and romantic. In disposition he is changeable, fickle, fond of travel and novelty, although he does not dislike his domestic circle and his family, to whom he is greatly attached, until the day comes when he realises that his feelings are not reciprocated: he will then escape without hope of ever returning. He is sociable, intellectual, poetical, inclined to be pessimistic and to worry about the future, and this will make him economical. Cancer is a lucky sign. It often enables its native to make a rich marriage and to gain several inheritances. For a man it often brings wealth through women.

(Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

Cancers tend to be emotionally volatile. They expend a great deal of energy through their feelings and are romantic and dramatic in their emotional expressions. Their emotions are supported by their will, however. They identify with their families and familiar concerns.

With Capricorn on the seventh house cusp, there is a tendency to be cautious and reserved in forming partnerships and to be shy in public relations. Since large crowds frighten them, Cancers do not like to remain in a crowd for very long. They are cautious in marriage. They tend to marry late in life and often for status.

(Dane Rudhyar)

A Cancer Ascendant will tend to make a person concerned with very definite, perhaps intellectually formulatable or experientially workable goals. The issues are sharply definable and involve individual personalities. What is perhaps more important is that the Cancer Ascendant person will trust more in the use of personal power and of the dynamic power of love. Adler, a psychologist who left the Freudian school, had a Cancer Ascendant, and he emphasized the importance of purely personal reaction to some kind of handicap and the will-to-power which compensates for feelings of inferiority by expressing aggressivity.

The person with Cancer as rising sign will also use this process of personal compensation but primarily as he establishes associations with other people. He is afraid to meet them in a person-to-person interaction. He may hide under broad concepts and Capricornian social generalizations. He has to build a social persona, to play a role in which he can appear superior to other people; and clairvoyance may turn out to be quite a remarkable way of impressing the persons with whom one comes into relationship with one's superior faculty of perception, while at the same time one is inwardly painfully aware of one's own individual insecurity.

(Howard Sasportas)

With Cancer on the Ascendant, greater self-realization is achieved through a sophisticated attunement to the feeling nature. Some people with Cancer rising (especially if the rest of the chart is predominantly watery, or if Neptune is strongly figured) are so emotionally vulnerable and exposed that they learn to protect themselves by developing a hard outer shell. Their task is to find ways of using their sensitivity rather than being overwhelmed by it. Others with Cancer rising (if the rest of the chart shows a great deal of Air or Earth) may be unaware of just how much is teeming under a cool and collected surface. This type will attract experiences which underline the need to acknowledge, respect and free the feelings.

The nature of the crab provides an apt description of the Cancer Ascendant. Besides being ready at a moment's notice to withdraw back into its shell, the crab has a way of approaching situations sideways, reflecting the non-confronting nature of this Rising sign. The crab is not comfortable all the time in the water, so it ventures out onto land, but then retreats back into the water again. Cancer rising also exhibits a two-steps-forward, one-step-backward dance-like ebb and flow. Cancer on the 1st house should learn to respect and 'go with' an internal and organic sense of their own timing and rhythm. In this respect, they are capable of 'tuning into' the cyclic nature of life. And yet there is a tenacity to the crab; its grasping claws do not easily relinquish what it holds onto. Those with Cancer rising cling to their feelings - be it joy or pain - and won't easily relinquish them until a stronger feeling overtakes. Explanations, reasons and rationalizations, while making perfect sense to an Air sign rising, won't get you very far with the crab, and may even be turned against you.

The sign of Cancer is associated with the womb and breasts. The breasts provide the nourishment to sustain new life, and the womb provides the perfect environment in which something can grow. If Cancer is on the Ascendant, the person grows in self-awareness through developing qualities of nurturing and caring. Whether it's through fostering a family, a business project, or a strongly felt cause, Cancer rising blossoms and 'comes into its own'. However, if they shun any active version of the mother role, then they have a way of flipping to the other side: that is, looking for others to play mother to them. An over-identification with the mother, a tendency to stay too long within the womb of the family of origin, or a persistent search for the Ideal Mother

they lost or never had, are some of the issues which may manifest with Cancer rising.

The opposite sign of Capricorn will be found on the 7th house cusp, and evokes those qualities which balance the extremes of Cancer. Those with Cancer rising may be flooded and swept away by upsurges of emotion and feeling, but maintaining a relationship demands that they discriminate between which emotions are appropriate and useful and which should be filtered or kept under control. Through partnership, a structure (Capricorn) is built, into which the otherwise random and chaotic feelings of Cancer can flow. They may enact their own need to achieve in the world through helping another person to become successful and established (Capricorn on the 7th). With this placement, a partner who will offer security, strength and stability is sought. At some point, however, Cancer rising will need to find these qualities from within, rather than importing others to provide them.

The Ascendant often has the characteristic 'moon face' - round, receptive and pleasing. Often there is a soft, fleshy appearance with a propensity to put on weight or retain fluids. The upper part of the body may be out of proportion to the rest of the torso.

Extremes of sensitivity and emotional chaos are associated with this Rising sign.
(Jeanne Avery)

The Moon is the ruler of Cancer. In a chart, the Moon indicates not only the emotional quality, the feelings, and sensitivity, but the mothering urges and protective instincts. When you spot someone who expresses that motherly concern for your welfare - picking lint off your jacket, asking if you've eaten lately, checking to see that you're all right - you can guess that you're in the company of someone who has Cancer rising. Another giveaway sign is talkativeness, with an emotional quality coming through loud and clear. The Cancer rising talks about feelings, rather than ideas, for the Moon works completely through the emotional nature. It is related to the anima part of the personality; therefore, the feminine, sensitive, vulnerable facet.

The Moon is the fastest-moving body in the heavens, waxing and waning, going through constant changes, often hiding behind the clouds. Yet when it emerges, it is there to act as a beacon in the dark. Since the person with Cancer rising is ruled by his emotions, the moody, changeable quality of this rising sign is apparent to everyone around. He can change moods drastically every few hours in a day. When he is in control of his emotions, this is the most understanding, sensitive person you could hope to find. He is nurturing, compassionate, and receptive. He is in touch with the emotional reactions of those around him and will always be ready to help. If he is not in control, he can be extremely miserable. When he allows a greater sense of reason to come into play, he begins to take charge of his emotions, rather than letting himself be a victim of those moods.

The mythological ruler of Cancer is the goddess Diana. She represents the bursting of life, the dawning of seasons, and ceremonies. Tradition, as related to harvest and hearth, are assigned to Diana. She represents cool, feminine beauty - aloof, yet concerned with germination and birth. She is representative of Mother Earth. Natives with this ascendant are tremendously connected to family and traditions, leaning toward a sense of heritage and warm, homey things. It makes no difference whether the native is male or female, the expression is that of the Mother. Cancer is the fourth sign of the zodiac, the home described by the fourth house. Cancer rising is particularly invested in his home and family.

The symbol of Cancer is the crab. The crab has two phases of his existence: one where he is vulnerable and naked without his shell, one where he is protected by the

hard, rock-like covering he grows around his exposed, sensitive body. The crab's habits can shed particularly symbolic light on the personality of a person with Cancer rising. When the crab is frightened or exposed, he scuttles behind a rock or into the sea. When the Cancer rising is hurt or finds his moods too much to deal with, he goes into hiding. He only emerges into the light of day when he has worked out his hurt or disappointment to his own satisfaction. The crab moves sideways toward his prey. He sidles up to the object of his attention and firmly fixes a claw. He clings to his prey and holds on with a vice-like grip. The native with this ascendant can do the same thing. When he has focused on his objective, he approaches it indirectly and grabs hold. His tenacity is unparalleled. He can hold you in an emotional grip that is extremely difficult to get away from. He can become 'crabby' and irritable at times, yet will be the personification of sensitivity and understanding at others. He can seem quite cool and aloof sometimes, yet when he is exposed and without his shell, he is the soul of warmth and protection. He can appear unfeeling and uncaring when he is in one of his moods, yet when he emerges from his hiding place, he basks in the sunlight of friendship and resumes his concern for your welfare.

This is the most sentimental sign of the zodiac. He can become attached to possessions that remind him of warm times and special people. Cancer is a Water sign, again emphasizing the sensitivity and receptiveness. Emotion and intuitive qualities are assigned to Water signs in general, but the Cancer rising shows these qualities most easily of all. He is nothing if not fluid in his emotional nature. Cancer rising is also a cardinal sign; therefore, even more receptive, sensitive, and vulnerable. These attributes can be both positive and negative. If there is a preponderance of these qualities, the native will be somewhat like a sponge. He picks up the feelings of those around him too easily. He can be swayed off his path and deterred from his goals by negative influences. He is especially receptive to upsetting conditions, as Cancer rules the stomach or solar plexus area, the point of attachment of the astral or emotional body. If the Cancer rising leaves his home in a happy mood and runs into someone angry or upset, he immediately takes on that emotional quality, unless he knows how to prevent that from happening. He is especially sensitive to jealousies from others and can be stopped from taking action in a rather subtle way. In a negative expression of his energy, he can become guilt-ridden, or can be envious of others' good fortune.

It is most important for this individual to pick associates carefully. The magnetic quality of his personality will attract all types of people to his side. Since he is so receptive and sensitive, and tends to pick up others' pain, he can find himself in an emotional whirlpool if he is around negative people. He must guard against those unhappy individuals who need the brightness of his light to see by. He can be susceptible to energy rip-off from others. If he has chosen to mother people unworthy of his attentions, it can be disastrous to his emotional balance. His very mothering instincts can turn against him and prevent him from achieving what he wants to in his own life. He can be the biggest 'rescuer' in the zodiac.

The process by which the Cancer rising comes to grips with his life can be very interesting. He may start with vision and a purpose. But with distractions, either from negative people or from life circumstances, he begins to look sideways. Whenever he compares his life with that of others, he starts on a non-productive course of action. If he becomes aware of a situation in someone else's life that appears desirable, an emotional reaction can take hold and he can indulge in self-pity, blame circumstances or 'life', and feel wounded. Then comes a period of hiding out. There may be a refusal to analyze a situation realistically, as this is not an easy thing for a Cancerian to do, since the immediate emotional reaction clouds the real issue. After a period of misery, he comes to the realization that not circumstances, but he himself, is not to blame for his own shortcomings. Then the guilt take hold and the process continues,

until he is somehow able to get himself out of this emotional morass.

Until that time, no-one can be more miserable than the person with Cancer rising. He is the only one who can solve his problem, but when he is drowning in self-pity, it is hard for him to look at the overall picture with perspective. His pride can be so easily hurt that family and friends may not even know he is wounded. He can be especially touchy, bitter, resentful. He puts up his prickly shell and keeps everyone away. In this emotional condition, he begins to overeat, overindulge in the very foods and drink that make his emotions harder to handle. His digestive system is his weak spot, anyway. He is not known for self-discipline and self-denial, so he feels justified in indulging himself, even if it is self-defeating. When he then begins to feel physically sluggish, he complains and is taken for a hypochondriac. With no pity from those around him, he feels even more wounded, morbid, and willful. He tries to satisfy his oral needs by putting food, drink, or cigarettes in his mouth. He may proceed to sleep too much, neglect exercise even more, fall further away from a healthy routine. It is almost impossible for anyone else to rouse him from this self-indulgent state, just as it may be impossible to rouse him from sleep. His depression deepens, and self-doubt hangs on. It appears there is no end to the round robin he finds himself in. Greater intellectual awareness of his patterns can be his saving grace. Concentrated effort toward self-discipline and healthy habits can make it easier to handle emotional reactions.

Actually, he may be very simple to understand if one watches the movement of the crab. When he is protected by his shell, he can be the aggressor. He moves toward his prey with decisive sideways motion. He seizes his prey, and he is in control. It is when he sheds his skin that he is naked and exposed like jelly. The important consideration is that this is the way the crab grows. It is a natural process. If the person with Cancer rising gets in touch with his own natural timing and avoids putting himself under undue pressure, he can analyze which state he is in, watch his movements, and understand why he is acting the way he is. He can then wait out his sensitive time with more awareness. It is through his own emotional pain that he understands the needs of others and emerges once more to do battle for the common man. The individual with Cancer rising who refuses to relate to the pain and suffering of others cannot possibly find solutions to his own problems. The Moon relates to the collective unconscious. The depth of feeling that he can eventually reach will lead him to the attunement necessary for his life's work.

Once he begins to be aroused to action, with a fully developed crusty armor, he can do battle on a very sensitive level. If he outgrows his shell, he may have outgrown his usefulness in a particular field. He must then go through that painful growth process once again to find a new level of sensitivity. It is this particular sensitivity and understanding that makes him a natural writer. If he uses intelligence and analysis, his mental antidotes, to put his own feelings in perspective, he is a beacon to those around him. Protective instincts can emerge once more, and he becomes a healer par excellence.

Most of the Cancer rising's guilt comes from blaming himself for reacting to other people's moods, creating lack of action on his part. This wasted energy can further paralyze him. Self-doubt and guilt take hold and he's trapped once again. It is easy to see how essential it is for one with this ascendant to get in touch with his own natural, emotional timing. The symbology of the Moon is appropriate. There are times when the Moon is full and shining, and times when it goes behind a cloud. It moves through a different sign of the zodiac every two days or so. It can be eclipsed, it waxes and wanes, yet its effect on the tides is unquestioned. The effect that one with this ascendant has on his public is equally noticeable. He pulls and tugs on your emotional sleeve until you have to sit up and take notice.

One of the first things that one with this ascendant needs to be aware of is the meaning of transference. Many times he will get hurt feelings because of what someone says to him. Usually, if that remark is accurate, the Cancer rising is able to slough it off with a shrug. It is when something really inaccurate and untrue is said that the Cancer rising overreacts. If he is able to look past the remark and realize that much of what he takes personally is only what the other person is feeling about himself, he can go into his mothering syndrome, decide what will make the other person feel better, and be saved from a drastic emotional overreaction. He picks up other people's pain and thinks it is his own. This can be too much to bear at times, especially if he is in pain himself. He feels for everyone. Fortunately, he can also pick up others' high spirits, and this can be a lifesaver. If he surrounds himself with positive, happy people, he has gone a long way toward his own happiness.

Invariably, there are great hunger needs in one with this ascendant. These can be manifested by oral activities. The Cancer rising has a tendency to overeat, overtalk, overdrink. Smoking can be another manifestation of his oral hungers. Many chronically overweight people have Cancer rising or the Moon in the first house. This individual tends to gain weight easily, no doubt due to the overeating that is directly related to his emotional hunger and to his tendency to retain fluids, reflective of his tendency to hang on to hurt. Food seems to be the pacifier he needs when he is upset. When he is in his thin phase, it is difficult to detect the rising sign by his appearance only, for as with the crab, his arms and legs can remain long and lean, perhaps even spindly. His face will always be on the round side, though with a strong jawline, retaining that 'moon-like' look.

If he has a vision to follow, he can make others feel through his imagination. The Cancer rising is essentially a night person, wanting to sleep all day if possible.

It is when Cancer rising works through his feelings and begins to express them overtly that he finds success in his life. He has a pipeline to masses of people through his own emotional reactions. Through his sensitivity he understands what mankind has in common, and he knows how to meet its needs. This is really the sign of the writer. It has been proven statistically that the Moon is most prominent in the charts of well-known writers. The quality of writing is less intellectual and more in tune with feelings we all share in common. When Cancer rising confronts his own feelings, he realizes that everyone suffers what he suffers to a greater or lesser degree. By bringing out his compassion, he saves his own life. He enriches his own experiences by assuming the natural role of mother to mankind. Again, Cancer rising is particularly concerned with the family, whether his own or the family or mankind.

This individual is not only able to pick up the feelings of others; people pick up his feelings, too. There is great identification by the public with one born with this ascendant. The response is a showering of public love and understanding. The public at large responds to Cancer rising in a special way.

Childhood is a tremendously traumatic time for one with Cancer rising. The rising sign is related to the 'orphan' complex. Whether the individual was really orphaned or not is irrelevant; he feels orphaned and abandoned early on, and his emotional coloring starts right then. He feels a distinct lack of mothering and tender loving care from childhood. My Cancer-rising daughter Diane recalled an incident during a regression session that clarified many of her childhood reactions. In that session, she went back to the age of five months, when she was sick and in the hospital. She recalled seeing me standing above her, seeming to ignore her fears by not picking her up and holding her close. She said she was scared and needed to be held. When I

kept my distance, she decided right then that I didn't love her. She felt, and decided to act, like an outsider in our family for much of her childhood. The recollection of this incident was a revelation to both of us, and I was grateful for an opportunity to present the 'facts' of that moment. Her grandfather was the Chief of Staff of the hospital and the fashion of his day was not to let mothers stay with their babies. His words were: 'Hysterical mothers have no business being around sick children'. That moment she recalled took place when she was in the nursery undergoing a blood transfusion. I was behind a plate-glass window, with my heart in my mouth, watching her, aching to take her in my arms to comfort her. There was no fighting the boss, however, and I was sent home, knowing it was the wrong thing to do. What Diane didn't photograph was my feelings. She only saw my actions. Her behavior during her childhood certainly reflected the decision she had made about my love. Fortunately she has no doubts about that love now, but her childhood was made more difficult because of this early reaction. I, in my state of unawareness, did not think to talk to her, at five months, to explain what was going on. She said that many times after that, when she felt particularly alone or abandoned, she would think of that incident and feel better almost immediately. The deprivation of touch at that critical and traumatic time of life has affected her whole life. It is interesting to note that the sensitive area for one with Cancer rising is the stomach and digestion. Diane was in the hospital because she was having trouble digesting food and was not receiving enough nourishment. The actual first memory of feeling abandoned could have come with my inability to nurse her for very long. Again, an example of oral needs connected with this rising sign.

It is almost impossible to know how to discipline a child with this ascendant. Too much severity and pressure will send him into hiding. He becomes more sensitive as pressure is brought to bear. Criticism won't work, as he becomes depressed if he feels he is a failure. Discipline must be sugar-coated. Otherwise, the child will only appear to obey. Eventually, he gathers his hurt feelings, gets in touch with his natural tendency to armor himself, and is more difficult to deal with in the long run. An injustice is not easily forgotten. A clue to understanding the child with Cancer rising comes with the understanding of Neptune, the esoteric ruler of Cancer. Neptune is the planet of vision, idealism, inspiration. This child can be inspired through his ideals to productive action. He is sympathetic, loyal and devoted to family, and will feel ennobled by working toward ideals in those areas. It is essential that his imagination be given an outlet, as it will provide a release for his feelings. Otherwise that imagination can run rampant, keeping him in dramatic and possibly morbid fantasies. The imagination must be fed with good food or else there is a tendency toward untruthfulness. Later on, he takes up the sword of truth and fights injustice with all his might.

The person born with Cancer on the ascendant will go out of his way to give aid and comfort. He will literally give you the shirt off his back if you need it. He cares not that he is cold, for your needs can seem more important than his own. He may sometimes overreact, yet his identification with others' problems is very real. If anything, he should show caution about overextending himself where he is not appreciated. He is a giver without thought of recompense, but if he feels unappreciated, it can be a devastating letdown. He gives what he can, and whatever he does or gives is done or given with love. He may have to discover the meaning of discrimination by 'casting his pearls before swine' and having his gifts thrown back in his face. If he 'rescues' and then gets 'persecuted', he begins to learn to value what he has to offer. He must guard against surrounding himself with people he feels sorry for in order to satisfy his mothering urges. He will reach a turning point in his own development and awareness when he begins to 'feel' on a less personal basis. Since his decisions about survival have to do with assuming the protective role, universal mothering brings deeper satisfaction on a much higher level.

Marriage and partnership is the area that comes under 'karmic' fire in the life of one with Cancer on the rise. Saturn is the ruler of partnership in this placement, whether business or marital. Since Saturn indicates the lessons we need to learn and the heaviest karmic situation from the past, one with this ascendant must be especially careful in his selection of a mate.

It appears that what one with this ascendant is looking for in a marriage is security. His own emotional swings keep him coming and going, so when he finds a person who appears to be stable, reliable, and responsible, that person represents the security he feels he needs. If Saturn is well aspected in the chart, it will be a serene and stable marriage, but if Saturn is badly aspected, the likelihood is that the marriage can be heavy, restricting, and limiting. Many times, a heavy Saturn in the chart can indicate an inherent fear of marriage. It is as if the individual senses the restrictions connected with partnership. It is especially important to examine the relationship to see where the limitation will end and the sense of stability will begin.

If it is well-aspected, Saturn is the planet that indicates responsibility, practicality, and steadfastness. It can represent the parent type, who is there to give a solid base, be supportive and responsible. In its positive sense, the one with Cancer rising can act as the mother and the partner will assume the father role, the disciplinarian. If Saturn is not well aspected, however, it represents one who is insecure, overly cautious, and judgemental instead of supportive. The Cancer rising can find himself in a limiting, restrictive partnership with someone cold and unresponsive, hardly what he needs to ensure security.

The Kabbalists liken Saturn to the 'playpen' Mother Nature puts her children in. That playpen can be important for the safety of the child early on, but later it can be restrictive and limiting. Safety can also be fun, so the person with a Cancer ascendant must be sure there are plenty of toys in his playpen to keep him happy. He needs to look for someone who is responsible without being overly conservative. A 'proper' person, but fun-loving. He must be careful not to let the prospect of a sturdy family tree keep him from looking at the realistic potential of the individual. He wants a heavyweight, but one that will act as a supportive agent, not a limiting one.

The most important facet of the partner to be aware of is a strong sense of self-worth. If that person is sure of himself or herself, the support in the marriage is fantastic. It will be long-lasting and comfortable - a 'forever' situation. But if the partner has insecurities, he will tend to keep the one with Cancer rising tied to the limitations he feels in himself. He will convince the Cancer rising that he can't live without the partnership, whereas in fact it is the partner that can't live without the energy of one with Cancer rising. This person, the partner, will act like a rock, stuck in the mud at the shoreline, keeping one with the Cancer ascendant tied up, rather than acting as a stabilizing anchor. A rock creates its own little whirlpool, pulling things to its own stuck place. Unless he is very careful, the one with Cancer rising is sometimes easily pulled in by negative strokes, negative messages, and negative situations. Since he is so sensitive, he needs to be aware of the first judgemental message he hears from one he is interested in. He will never be able to do anything about another person's feelings of self-worth; all he can do is take care of his own. He needs to understand what he has to give in a partnership situation and look for someone who truly appreciates him. He must guard against a desire to rescue; a rock will remain a rock as long as its behavior produces the desired results. The Cancer rising will have to deal with his mothering instincts most carefully in this instance. He may have to consider that marriage may be his own way of keeping himself safe and in the playpen. If he is willing to assume responsibility for his own happiness and life, he ultimately attracts to his side one who is protective and who is desirous of fulfilling

the same sense of destiny and duty on a humanitarian level as Cancer rising. Together they can act as 'mother and father' on a profound level, being mutually supportive and nurturing to each other and to mankind.

(Lyn Birbeck)

You are a carer or a cowerer. The Moon is your ruling planet. Your shadow is impersonality. Other is a worldly one or wet blanket. Saturn is Other's ruling planet.

You are all 'feelers', picking up the emotional climate around you with instinctual ease. It can seem at times that you are purely response and reaction to whoever you are with or wherever you are. This can result in your not being at all sure whether it is your feeling or someone else's. In any event, you have to respond in some way, usually giving care or sympathy, or needing it - or you simply withdraw into your famous shell until it is 'safe' to come out again. With such moodiness being the hallmark of your identity, you are inclined to attract an Other who is more emotionally controlled, restrained or repressed even. He / she may also be somewhat older than you, biologically or psychologically, and therefore more adult or worldly. Other provides you with the equipment and technique that make it possible to function in the harsh material world at which your childlike persona can blanch. If Other's more mature stance appears cold or calculating to you though, you will give a commensurate display of fearfulness and / or withdrawal.

Your dreamy, sensitive and sentimental response to life makes you react negatively to anything that appears to be coldly realistic and unfeeling. But that is often all it is - a reaction that interprets a businesslike and objective approach to things as being alien and unfamiliar, and therefore uncaring. Such a subjective response has at its root a feeling of insecurity that has your mother, father and childhood as the reason behind it. Take a step back and see that this impersonal attitude is the very objectivity, seriousness and sober sense of purpose that you need to learn and acquire so as to feel more safe and secure in the world.

You require a traditional type of relationship where each of you has a clear sense of his / her role and position in it. This may feel restrictive and limiting at first, but eventually, and paradoxically, this feeling of having and knowing your boundaries and responsibilities is what makes you feel secure and protected enough to go out and explore your potential and make the most of yourself. An open, easy-come-easy-go kind of relationship would not give you this. As the Chinese proverb says, 'limitation is the key to freedom'.

When you are alone, it is very likely to be because you have not accepted the limitations (or lessons) of a relationship in the way outlined above. Without your doing this, a relationship, or Other, can wither on the vine. Seeking some kind of unrealistic 'freedom' can be the culprit behind this; and the reason behind that can be a very basic and unconscious distrust of finding any Other whom you can rely upon at all. Alternatively, not taking a tough enough 'impersonal' stance with Other can leave you feeling emotionally exhausted, if not on your own.

(John Townley)

For you, probably the most important aspects of a relationship are integrity and security. You do not rush into an affair helter-skelter, and when you do commit yourself to a lover you expect it to be a lasting relationship. You will persevere through many trials and tribulations in order to make an affair work out, as long as you feel that your partner is equally committed.

If there is any problem with this position, it is oversensitivity, a tendency to take remarks made in jest too seriously. You can overcome this difficulty in part by choosing your lover carefully. Then you should watch your emotional reactions and be discriminating about what you take to heart.

This position makes you a very faithful lover, but in the liberal climate of today, an incident of unfaithfulness will be very traumatic for you. You should avoid being overly possessive in the physical sense; faithfulness belongs more to the heart than to the body. If you can keep this in mind, you can avoid much unnecessary emotional injury.

Physically, what is most meaningful to you in sexuality is love and devotion; sincerity in a partner far outweighs technique. For a truly happy and fulfilling long-term relationship, sex and love must be synonymous.

Natal Ascendant in Leo

(Bernice Grebner)

First Decanate (Leo-Leo): They are sunshine itself (or at least they certainly think they are). They have to keep from overdoing in the area of energy, for they tend to project too much of themselves into activities. They come on at first with great arrogance, but this is many times a façade, for they are truly warmhearted. They are usually very attractive in a vital, dramatic way.

With Aquarius-Aquarius on the Descendant, the marriage relationship will always be subject to changing conditions. There will be unusual experiences with it; such as differences in age, race, religion, etc.. They will attract mates who are very independent or who have been or will become friends. In any event the marriage will not be ordinary, but extraordinary. Open enemies will become friends.

Second Decanate (Leo-Sagittarius): The self-projection into activity or the image you are first aware of has to have an ideal behind it, through either advanced education for children or a religious or scientific advancement for their fellow man. They are worthy of your trust in them for they have great nobility of spirit and integrity.

With Aquarius-Gemini on the Descendant, the partnership will have a multitude of friends along with it, which either augments the relationship or causes friction because of too much attention to friends. If they have mates as individualistic and enthused about a number of things as they are, they will work together as a team and will not be pulling against each other. If they are friends as well as married lovers, it will work beautifully.

Third Decanate (Leo-Aries): They need to be first and are never wrong. They are creative and like a good time, so when things get rough they take off to a greener or more pleasant spot. These people are more or less arrogant depending upon other aspects in the chart, so if you want to impress them and be on their side, build their egos.

With Aquarius-Libra on the Descendant, there will be temptation of rebellion with the partner because of the tendency to be too individualistic. However, with the Libra influence here they will not want to argue and will want to preserve peace. If this energy is used in artistic creativity by both partners, it will alleviate the need to argue. Even with all of their beliefs in sexual freedom, they are not apt to use it as licence for promiscuity.

(Sepharial and Muchery)

First Decanate: This gives a strong, forcible nature, difficult to control; poverty and trouble in life; domestic infidelity; loss of children; hazardous speculations; lack of sympathy in the nature; austere character, spoiled by false pride. Self-imposition and deception will mar the life. The native is distrustful of others, and lacking in self-confidence also, but is apt to assert his independence at inopportune moments. Much sickness, and a wasting of the vital powers; a careful, watchful nature, seldom achieving any great work, but always laborious.

Second Decanate: A fortunate and profitable nature; kind, humane disposition; warm sympathies; fortunate speculations; dutiful family; plenty of confidence-en-soi; artistic faculty; inclination to form rather than colour; gain by legacy, and success through marriage.

Third Decanate: Strong, forcible nature, capable of and desiring command; frank, open and generous disposition; many journeys; success in foreign countries; inheritance and acquisition of property at the close of life; adventurous spirit, inclined to exploits and hazardous feats. The native bears tulle with a high hand, and is successful over his enemies.

Physical Qualities: Leo gives an average stature; broad chest; strong, broad shoulders; an upright walk, springy in youth; a cheerful, clear expression; fearless eyes, generally of a blue or pale grey tint, sometimes green; light-colored, sparse, wavy hair. As the years advance the native becomes heavier owing to defective circulation. The face is full and round; the muscles well developed; the bony structure robust but the joints delicate. The hands and feet are small in proportion to the stature.

Mental Qualities: Faithful, proud, fearless; ambitious, generous, artistic; opposed to cliques and secrecy; oblivious to enmity; rich in life and feeling. The native goes straight ahead, his confidence in his strength and success enabling him to take a pleasant view of life. He is full of vitality. Capable of great exertion, and knowing exactly what he wants, he succeeds in his chosen path, providing that the Lord of this sign, the Sun, is well situated. Leo in the Ascendant often means two marriages, denoting separation or divorce for the native or his parents. This prevents the period of youth from being exactly what he would like it to be. He will nevertheless attain to a higher position than his father.

(Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

While Leos project themselves with dignity, energy and will, they are at times abrupt and overbearing. They are determined to express themselves wherever they see fit, and they will sometimes enter into and dominate a situation without being invited.

With Aquarius on the 7th house cusp, in partnerships Leos like to be free. They are humanitarian in public relations and enjoy creating the image of altruism. They have an instinct to centralize things in partnerships; and when they are married they want to know, for no rational reason, the whereabouts and activities of all. The king must know what his queen is up to!

(Dane Rudhyar)

The individual with a Leo Ascendant seeks to discover who he is by creating mirrors upon which he can project and reveal to his consciousness what his original birth-potential - or Soul potentialities and dharma - is. He seeks to find his self in his

creations, at whatever level these creations find their embodiment; thus the creation may be a child, a work of art, a specific kind of social performance, etc.. If one understands well this process, two factors will stand out clearly. First, the Leo rising individual has to impose his desire for self-projection upon whatever materials are necessary; he has to see that they are available and responsive to his projected imagination and will force. When these necessary 'materials' are other human beings, the Leo person becomes the man who has to lead and even to rule over people or social projects. But the second factor, which should not be forgotten, is that this intense desire for self-projection is rooted in and conditioned by the fact that the individual is not sure of what he essentially is. He tends to be socially insecure because he is uncertain of his dharma. He has to prove himself to himself, to discover who he is in the mirror of his creations. His grand gestures may indeed be compensations for this inner lack. At all cost he must find out how people react to him, and perhaps discover his strength in their subservience. In order to be able to express his unclearly-known self, he has to be able to handle cultural products and thus Aquarian symbols, words and concepts. He meets his partners in terms of vast concepts - social, cultural, occult. These are needed to provide basic forms for his will to expression. Thus the Leo Ascendant must interact with the Aquarius Descendant.

(Howard Sasportas)

Leo rising creates a world in which the need to develop power, authority and creative expression are requisite to gaining a sense of individual selfhood. The house position of the Sun will designate the specific area of life through which this Ascendant can most naturally discover his or her own unique and special identity. It will be in that sphere that this person will seek love, admiration, applause and effectiveness.

However, for some with Leo rising, being effective is confused with being affective. Self-display, showiness and extravagant gestures are, in Leo's case, fuelled and prompted by the pressing need to be somebody and to feel important. Anything is better than just being ordinary. Those with Leo rising are preoccupied with something with which all of us are at some time concerned - emerging as an individual in our own right.

There is the danger that they might meet the world with too much pride. Some are born expecting to be treated like royalty; but they must be prepared to make an effort to earn the desired respect and status rather than angrily or hastily turning away if glory is not bestowed on them unquestioningly. Sometimes they are afraid or they hesitate to try to prove themselves just in case they should fail. Those who don't manage to develop a healthy outlet for their personal power or creativity sometimes do turn bitter and cynical at the world for not recognizing their genius.

Leo is associated with the heart centre in the body, and the sign has an enormous amount of love to give. Grand gestures aside, Leo rising, like the Sun, can bestow a generous warmth, healing and life-giving energy to those on the receiving end. However, this Ascendant will usually expect something in return, some sort of grateful acknowledgement for all that they have done. A turning point is reached when Leo rising can give without asking for anything back.

While it is crucial for those with Leo on the Ascendant to develop a healthy sense of their own power, authority and worth, Aquarius on the Descendant means that they will be confronted by people or situations which urge that life be viewed from a perspective other than that of the personal self. The individual can still be respected but must consider the requirements of the larger system of which he or she is a part. Aquarius on the 7th suggests that one-to-one relationships are a training ground for the sharing and promoting of common goals, thus neutralizing the possibly overly

self-centred or egotistical slant of Leo on the 1st. In order to maintain a lasting relationship in which the personality of either party is not quashed, the fire and passion of Leo rising needs to be cooled and contained (but not extinguished) by the airy objectivity and fairness of Aquarius.

Physically, Leo on the Ascendant often manifests in a powerful and proud bearing which commands attention. Depending on the aspects to the Sun, there is sometimes the characteristic 'sunny' face and luminous, sparkling eyes.
(Jeanne Avery)

Leo is the royal sign. The person with this Ascendant is dramatic, regal in his bearing, and certainly in control of any situation. Leo rising is the ascendant of 'kingship'; the symbol is the lion, king of the beasts. Leadership and executive ability are easy for one with this ascendant. It seems that he came into the world to express his individuality, dominance, and strength. When he walks into a room, he exudes a vibrancy that is not easily ignored. There is no doubt about his dramatic ability, as that seems to be a natural quality for him to express. He is the actor of the zodiac.

The ruler of Leo is the Sun. Since the Sun is the source of heat, energy, and light, the kind of dynamic personality that goes with this ascendant is especially sparkling. Leo rising is literally a ball of fire. His energy is almost always high. He is an extrovert and can be somewhat of an exhibitionist at heart. If he is the shy type of Leo, he still commands attention. He can be the life of any party, and is never at a loss for social invitations and friendship. Everyone else may actually seem a little tame in comparison.

The lion may look ferocious, but the Leo rising is really a kitten at heart. If you stroke and pet him and tell him how wonderful he is, he can be easily tamed, for he is a pussycat underneath. He may growl loudly and go after big game, but after the conquest he always wants his fur stroked. He is a lovable sort when you get past the roar. With a little understanding of how to tame him, you'll have him eating out of your hand.

His appearance is also characteristic of the lion. If you look carefully, you will see the similarity. He usually has a wonderful abundance of hair, growing in thick profusion, framing his face like a mane; and he has a 'lion-like' face. He is easily recognizable by the way he dresses, as his royal attire will give him away every time. He prefers dramatic combinations of color and clothing, always in good taste, but probably designed to attract attention. He will rarely appear in public without his royal robes. If he is in sloppy condition, no doubt his ego has been wounded. Rather than show up at a gathering in a depressed state, attired in less than glorious swathing, he'll probably stay at home. Since he may feel it is his job to entertain everyone around him, and be on stage at every occasion, he'd rather postpone the appearance if he is low in energy.

Leo is a Fire sign. The person with this Ascendant needs the warmth of the Sun, as he gets cold very easily. He seems to come alive in a new sort of way when the weather is pleasant. He may wear several sweaters at times when everyone else is quite comfortable. He is electric in energy and needs warmth to recharge his batteries. The Sun reinforces his natural enthusiasm and zest when his energy flags. Leo is a fixed sign, indicating determination. There is no stopping him once his mind is made up. He cannot be influenced or swayed from his course. He knows where he is going and knows just how to get there. Very little will stand in his way if he has made up his mind about a particular plan of action.

It is fascinating to watch one with Leo rising. Everything he does has a natural sense

of heightened energy about it. The way he moves, the pauses he takes are not necessarily calculated for effect. It simply reflects his natural sense of the dramatic. Whatever he is doing can be tremendously interesting to observe even if he is only lighting a cigarette or talking to a friend. His sixth sense about prestige, dignity and command is part of his overall effectiveness. He can seem to make a grand entrance, whether it is a business meeting or a social gathering. He wants to be noticed entering a restaurant or party, and usually is. If he really makes a bit for attention, no-one can hold a candle to him. He doesn't seem to have to do anything special to attract recognition and have everyone's rapt attention.

People respond to one with this ascendant automatically, as he can easily be the most interesting person around. This extra attention can actually put pressure on the individual with this ascendant, reinforcing his feeling that he must be 'on' at all times.

The person with this regal rising sign will never forget a kindness. His devotion is boundless, his memory long. The story of the lion with a thorn in his paw is apropos of one with this ascendant. The lion never forgot the lad who removed that thorn, and many years later was able to repay the kindness. The Leo rising will come to your aid when you need it most and expect it least. If, however, you have offended one with this ascendant, you'll see the chilly side of his personality. The gloom of the sky when the Sun has disappeared is nothing in comparison to the Leo personality when his ego has been hurt. He may never say anything about the situation, but will disappear to lick his wounds in private. He will restore his sense of self-worth in his own way and in his own time.

The Leo personality is loyal as well as devoted, if he is appreciated. There's nothing he won't do for a friend, as he loves to be helpful and kind. Since Leo rules the heart, his loving warmth and generosity are boundless. He will want some thanks periodically, and will find his own way to remind someone that he is due for strokes in return. He will be truly hurt if a friendship is soiled. He won't hold a grudge, he just won't be available and can be too cool for comfortable association. He will simply not acknowledge the presence of someone who has done him wrong, reducing that individual to an insignificant place in his life.

Nobility and pride are synonymous with the Leo personality. If this individual is at the bottom of the heap, and without resources, it will be sad indeed. He must be able to show his generosity, graciousness, and flair for good living, or he will suffer deeply. He can be extravagant, as he wants to have the best of everything. He also has royal taste. He can be tempted to run up bills if necessary to keep up appearances. He will be particularly lavish if his sense of luxury is shared and appreciated. He will want to provide comfort for those around him at all times. Fortunately, he is usually able to take care of his extravagant needs very well. His insult to himself is extreme if he fails in his own expectations.

Leo rising has a sense of drama, pomp, and ceremony. It might appear that with this kind of dynamic personality the Leo rising would never relinquish the spotlight to anyone else, but that is not true. He's ready, willing, and able to share the limelight. He will love to sponsor someone, especially if that person succeeds in his accomplishments. He will want to share in the reflected glory, however. If the Sun is well aspected in an individual chart, and his ego is healthy, a small acknowledgement will do. If, however, the Sun is badly aspected, indicating a lack of ego or self-esteem, the individual may do everything for the glory he receives in return. He will then appear unconcerned about anything anyone else is doing and be totally self-absorbed. Underneath what appears to be a vain, conceited personality, however, lies a heart of gold waiting to be recognized for his true worth. The Leo rising can be persuaded to

perform for anyone who'll listen to him. Sometimes elevator operators and cab drivers will be the recipients of his best material. He may need to be encouraged to find a wider audience.

Since the rising sign indicates decisions about survival, the qualities of leadership become apparent early in life. The person with this ascendant evidently decides that he is on safe ground when he is in charge. It is probable that the child with this rising sign loses respect, to some degree, for the people around him, and feels he must take over as the strongest member of the family. He easily assumes the role of leader of the pack. He may do so without anyone being cognizant of what he is doing, and may, in fact, be unaware of it himself. It is so important to give a child with this rising sign the compliments he deserves, to encourage his natural leadership and executive tendencies. If his ego is well nourished, he channels that wonderful ability in healthy ways. If he is appreciated for his good values, good behavior, and noble actions, he will rise to his greatest height and continue on the positive path. If his ego is stamped out or neglected, he will get attention any way he can. He learns early on just how to get the recognition he craves. Negative strokes are better than no strokes at all. If he is rewarded for bad behavior or is ignored, he will be a sucker for flattery all his life.

Since drama is the key to his existence, he needs a positive opportunity to release that flair so he will avoid searching for drama strokes in everyday life. He begins performing as soon as he becomes aware of the sweet sound of applause. He can express his dramatic ability and leadership in innumerable ways, as long as he thinks well of himself and his abilities. Some of the outstanding personalities, leaders, and talents in our society were born with Leo rising. Their colorful personalities won't remain hidden. The dramatic quality is also expressed through writing by other exceptional people. Famous musicians and artists also have this ascendant.

The natural ability of people with Leo rising to seek recognition can lead to the acclaim that is accorded them, no matter what their field. The person with a Leo ascendant is able to express his personality more easily than many other people. World leaders that the world could not ignore have had this placement.

When royalty has this royal sign on the ascendant, they seem especially natural for the role to which they were born, as if they chose on a soul level that ascendant that would allow them the easy way to express leadership qualities.

Some Leo rising personalities chose service to their country as a way of expressing their true strength of character.

The Sun in an astrological chart indicates the ego and the male, dominant part of the personality. In psychological terms, it represents the animus part of the personality. The placement of the Sun in the chart indicates where that ego is focused. It also indicates where recognition is likely to come from. It can tell what factor affects the sense of pride. The aspects indicate the health and strength of the ego and sense of pride. With the Sun as the ruler of the ascendant, the pride and ego have to do with self-expression, conditions of childhood, and the appearance of things. Recognition naturally follows the ease of expression. The natural release of this ego comes from the sector where the Sun is posited.

Since the person with Leo rising expresses the masculine part of the personality, dominance is characteristic of the personality no matter what sex. Both male and female portray these strong leadership, 'masculine' qualities more easily than the feminine characteristics. In a relationship, there is no question as to who is the boss. It can sometimes be difficult for women with this ascendant to handle the dominant quality. If she has a well-aspected Sun in the chart, indicating a healthy and well-

placed ego, she can handle her assertive qualities. She will be able to assume the stronger role. Peace of mind comes with the awareness of her need to have her own way, express her executive talent, and take charge. If her Sun is not well aspected, indicating a lack of ego recognition on her part, she may resist this strength and try to play the weaker role, making her life more difficult in the process. Sooner or later, these strong qualities will emerge. If she can channel these energies constructively, acknowledge the dominant survival issues, she will select a partner who is easy with the kind of role reversal that is probable.

The lady with this ascendant will never be a clinging vine, hard as she might try. She may or may not like having to make the decisions, but she will end up in that role even though outer circumstances appear to be quite different. It is possible that she will set up a situation, subconsciously, that will end in her having to take over. She may resent the position, without realizing it is her way of feeling safe. As soon as she accepts the fact that she was born to be a leader, she will find healthy, constructive ways of being just that.

If the Sun has strong aspects in the chart of a woman with this ascendant, she is always in touch with her strength and will be forthright about commanding respect. She has no sense of inferiority to men and will lose respect for any woman who plays the shrinking violet. She is not lacking in femininity, and may actually be the most feminine lady around because of her sense of nobility and proud bearing. Her sense of drama sends an electrically charged aura around her whole being. She lights up at will like a thousand incandescent candles, but no matter how strong she is, she responds to attention and recognition of her inner values like the cuddly kitten she can be inside. If she is willing to expose her vulnerability, the lioness in her can be tamed.

The planets aspecting the Sun in an individual chart will add other colors and hues to the personality of one with this ascendant. Modification of those natural qualities is indicated by the relationship of other planets to the placement of the Sun.

You may not recognize the Leo ascendant if Saturn is also affecting the personality. Even if Saturn is well aspected in the chart, if it is conjunct the Sun then a natural subduing of the dramatic behavior is evident. Saturn is the cautious planet, exhibiting a conservative and careful manner. Some insecurity is probable as well. The color represented by this practical planet almost completely reflects an opposite quality to the Leo brilliance. It is like sweeping a wash of gray over a brilliant red. The red color shows through, but subdued somewhat. Insecurity may compel the Leo rising to be 'on stage' even more. He may seek approval through the use of his executive, leadership, and dramatic qualities rather than express them because it's what he wants to do. This aspect indicates lack of self-esteem and self-confidence, obviously stemming from a childhood where his ego was not stroked, or where he felt rejection. He may have developed a pessimistic point of view if he was not encouraged to express his natural exuberance. These insecurities can come not only from childhood but also from a dim memory of a past life condition, or from both areas.

This neglect of the dominance is particularly interesting in the chart of a female, indicating that fear of being strong. If it is in evidence in a man's chart, it can compel him to blow his own horn in case he isn't liked for himself. He resists assuming the noble role. He appears to have an exaggerated sense of self-worth rather than the deep insecurity that is really there. The individual with this aspect must, of course, learn to like himself. Others will probably follow suit, but if an activity is performed because of a desire, it won't matter whether the accolades come or not. It is more than likely that they will come eventually, perhaps when Leo rising least expects them.

No matter what planet is affecting the personality of one with Leo rising, it is a certainty that the king of beasts will not fade into the background. The ease of achievement has much to do with his early conditioning. 'As the twig is bent, so grows the tree' is particularly true for this individual. He senses his 'royalty' and will thrive on the chance to show his true nobility of spirit if given half a chance.

Leo rising needs a great deal of freedom in marriage. He is attracted to someone who appears to be a free soul, avant-garde, spontaneous, and humanitarian. He really wants a genius as a mate. Unconventional behavior or a rebellious outlook can frequently be mistaken for freedom. The individual with this ascendant may need to examine his own rebellious nature in the process of selecting someone with whom to spend his life, or he may ensure more freedom than he expects by selecting the wrong person.

Since the Leo rising has much determination and fixity in his personality, he must call the shots and be the boss. He wants to be able to do what he wants, when he wants. He must have a partnership with someone who not only understands that need but can be spontaneous enough to adapt to his desires. In order to grow together, assuring the quality of spontaneity he wants, Leo rising must look for someone who is inventive and free-thinking rather than the person who is unpredictable, unstable and unreliable. The Leo personality will be even more stimulated by someone who attains a share of the limelight and attracts recognition on his own. He wants a person who will justify his good taste and do him proud in the bargain.

The planet Uranus rules the seventh house of marriage or business partnership when Leo is ascending. That planet signifies freedom or the tendency to want to run away. It is inventiveness or anarchism. It is the planet that rules electricity, electronics, astrology, metaphysics, fame, science, recordings, radio, and healing. If that planet is well aspected in the natal chart, the person with Leo rising is in touch with his own genius and need for freedom, thereby selecting the person who uses the freedom urges in a healthy, creative way. But if that planet is not well aspected, the Leo personality may marry out of a sense of rebellion. He or she may attract someone not in touch with his or her own need for freedom, or look for someone who represents freedom in a particular fashion. That person may exhibit behavior characteristics that only appear free. He will always be attracted to someone who appears somehow different. If Leo rising resists his own genius, inventive impulses, he will attract a mate who is resistant to utilizing those same natural electrical impulses. That mate may try to calm down the energy by using drugs or drink, or hiding behind a conservative front. The resulting chaos will give Leo rising plenty of room to run away. When each partner is in touch with his need for spontaneity, their exciting interaction provides the healthy kind of stimulation that is necessary for a successful union. The Leo loyalty makes it difficult to break up an unsuccessful relationship. It's essential to look before leaping into a restrictive partnership situation, or the Leo ascendant may live to regret his impulse.

(Lyn Birbeck)

You are a showman or show-off. The Sun is your ruling planet. Your shadow is ordinariness. Other is an observer or outsider. Uranus is Other's ruling planet.

Like a King or Queen, you express yourself with apparent confidence and style, with a regal air that names the game and sets the rules. This attracts Other who, like a court jester, responds positively only when you are aware of what is popular and have at heart the interests of Other. Failing this, you are met with cool indifference, mockery or outright rebellion. Conversely, Other's views and theories about life and society, if only slightly tinged with political correctness, are shot down by you with a

blast of passionate self-justification. When, on the other hand, Other's populist point is expressed in such a way as to make it clear that noting it would lead to elevating your individual position, then you graciously and happily accept it.

You have a dread of being merely one amongst the great mass of human society, so it rankles when Other shows signs of being a member of this large and unexclusive club and subscribes to fitting in but at the same time wants to be slightly different. Such naughtiness is what you yourself live in fear of being accused of. But being a bit so-called 'ordinary' can paradoxically be quite quirky and, more to the point, render you less self-conscious and more at ease with the world. This is like the monarch who is far more popular with his subjects because he is seen to be like them than if he held himself apart from and above them.

Unusual and unprecedented types of interaction, with the accent on freedom, are what suit you, despite the hassle and unpredictability they engender. It is as if you are inventing a set of values that will suit you and Other exclusively. This quality of your relationship reflects what poet Kahlil Gibran advised any couple: 'Let the winds of the heavens dance between you'. In other words, don't ever fall into complacency by thinking you really know, let alone own, one another, or shock and upset will descend upon you. In any event, you are inclined to run hot and cold, go on / off, as needs for freedom and companionship alternate.

When you are alone, or without success in or recognition from the world at large, it is no doubt because you have been sticking stubbornly to an egocentric viewpoint or value system that failed to appeal to Other. So Other had to follow the only course open to him / her in the face of such overt self-righteousness. If in future you begin to show that behind your magnificent façade you are an ordinary, feeling human being, then Other - either in his / her current form or in a new one - will be only too pleased to bask in your light or appreciate your creative expressions. Just so long as your bright persona is not just a defence system against a world you feel does not understand you. The truth is that it will not do so long as you fail to show the mere human inside.

(John Townley)

With this Ascendant, you have an affable, affectionate nature, emphasizing physical expression. The physical love you seek is rather playful and childlike; and others see you as outgoing and friendly, rather than inward and intense, like some other signs.

You seem to have an open, straightforward nature without too much complexity - self-confident and charming, with an honest, natural social grace. This may reflect your inner nature, but as often as not your cheerful, outgoing appearance hides a much more complex and inward-tuned personality. The camouflage of this Ascendant allows your inner personality to operate more freely.

However, the disadvantage of this duality is that you may feel pressured to sustain an image that you don't truly feel within. In any lasting love relationship you should emphasize the inner qualities of your Sun and Moon positions so that your lover will have a real personal understanding of you. People with Leo Ascendant are usually physically attractive, which promises sexual enjoyment. However, for true and lasting communication, you must establish inner rapport with your partners; that will determine the success of the relationship.

(Robert Hand)

You like to be the centre of attention, to appear strong, confident and dominant, even

if something is bothering you. Your pride is so important that even when your feelings are hurt badly, you may act as if nothing is wrong.

You like to be the leader, and you can be a good one as long as you remember that leadership is a responsibility as well as power and privilege. If you feel that people are dealing with you fairly, you conduct yourself with dignity and honor. Other young people may do cheap or dishonest things, but ordinarily you will not go along.

Leo is the fixed Fire sign. You can be stubborn, especially if your pride is involved. You don't respect grown-ups just because they are older than you. You are idealistic; and people have to prove to you that they have integrity. But when they do, you are loyal in return.

You like to have rich and elegant things that you can show off to others. But remember that just because something impresses people, it is not necessarily good. You need to learn the difference.

People who have Leo rising are often very impressive looking, which is a powerful asset. Others may or may not see you as beautiful or handsome, but as you grow up you will develop a regal bearing that will make others feel that you are dependable. Many people will like you, and most will also respect you.

Natal Ascendant in Virgo

(Bernice Grebner)

First Decanate (Virgo-Virgo): They will work at a job until it is done correctly, exerting a great deal of energy and common sense. This results in success as a trouble-shooter. They do not stand out in a crowd, for their natures are rather modest, quiet, and shy. At their best they serve quietly and humbly. If they like you, you will know it by how much work they do to serve you.

With Pisces-Pisces on the Descendant, they may be too idealistic for marriage. They have to watch it so they do not unite themselves to people because they feel sorry for them. This can very possibly attract them to soul-mates or those relationships where great spiritual affinity is involved. It could attract them to those who are musical or poetic; or if Neptune is harshly aspected, to a partner who has a drinking problem. They need to learn to be more tolerant in relation to the marriage partner.

Second Decanate (Virgo-Capricorn): A woman with this position may project a self that is too conscious of how she is coming across; therefore, with a 5th house influence (Capricorn on the cusp) she will not let herself go with passion, but is more apt to want to be safe than sorry. A man with this position will be much more sexy, being influenced by the masculine drive Capricorn gives. In other words, a man will feel this influence much more positively than a woman.

With Pisces-Cancer on the Descendant, they need sympathetic friends and marriage partners. They in turn can make great sacrifices for people they love. This may be the person who sacrifices marriage to take care of an old or sick parent, or to pursue a great and noble cause. It is not impossible for the partnership to take form as a musical duo in the entertainment field.

Third Decanate (Virgo-Taurus): To be at their best in projecting themselves as a truly intellectual person, they need to surrender to some religious conviction or to develop their grasp of knowledge by continual education. In this way, their inner inferiorities will be diminished. When they are truly sure of their education and the service they

are giving others, they can be more loving and creative and thus lose their need to criticize. They may seem superior but they do not, at all, feel it.

With Pisces-Scorpio on the Descendant, they are capable of great self-sacrifices for their partners, not only self-sacrifice but financial sacrifice as well. They hide from the world their true relationship with the marriage partner. They may be secretive in communications to others, but need the partner for a shoulder to cry on if necessary. They need the partner emotionally and mentally. They receive great mental stimulation from marriage.

(Sepharial and Muchery)

First Decanate: A patient nature, likely to suffer affliction and privation, and sometimes restraint or imprisonment; it confers a long life, and disposes to the study of analytical and mechanical science, theoretical and practical. The nature is secretive, and the subject of this decan often lives a very retired life.

Second Decanate: An artistic and literary person is denoted, with a love for philosophy and belles-lettres; kind disposition, genial and vivacious nature, full of pleasant allusions and bright dialogue; fortunate in the acquisition of property and artistic pursuits. Long voyages are shown; much familiarity with the stage or the artistic world; some falling-off of family fortunes, and an inclination to domestic disputes.

Third Decanate: The nature is quick and alert, apt in the sciences and dexterous arts; inclined to literature; loquacious and restless; a person of much business, and very versatile disposition; gains honours and position by his own merits, and acquires property; disposed to the study of medicine and hygiene; very particular in the matters of diet and clothing; many changes of residence.

Physical Qualities: Virgo gives a full forehead; hair generally swept back and falling about the ears; inclined to baldness on top of the head; a straight nose; wide shoulders; an active walk and a quiet voice. Height is added to the stature; the native is usually slim, with a rounded face and forehead; the eyes may be light or very dark and the hair tends to match them in color; the complexion is sallow.

Mental Qualities: Learned, searching after knowledge, methodical; inclined to art and literature; benevolent; fond of the occult; disposed to collecting in some form or other; very critical and precise. The disposition is prudent, eloquent, industrious and quick, subtle and critical; the mental qualities are good, but over-analytical, so that the native is very methodical and a good organiser. A certain inclination toward pessimism makes him magnify the unpleasant facts of life. The period of youth is often unhappy, or does not come up to expectations. The native's mental aptitude is good, but often not employed to the best advantage. In spite of organisation in details, there is a lack of ideas from the synthetic standpoint, so that, unless Mars, Uranus or Saturn is powerful in the horoscope, the native will have more chance to succeed with others than alone. It is a good position for taking up science, medicine or occultism, and also gives great adaptability for commercial pursuits.

(Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

Virgos' mental acuteness is expressed in practical affairs. They are systematic and well-organized in developing ideas and executing them. No detail is too small for them to notice or explain; and their success is due to the careful attention to fine points and details overlooked by others. Perfection is Virgos' goal, and there are no flaws in what they do. Quality supersedes quantity.

With Pisces on the 7th house cusp, partners are often the avenue by which the natives expand into new fields; these partners enhance Virgos' human understanding and emotional involvement. Virgos attract people who are not nearly so well organized as they.

(Dane Rudhyar)

The Virgo-rising person will seek to single himself out by his progressive transformations, his spiritual overcomings, his bodily rejuvenations. In some cases he may achieve much through a sense of humility and a will to serve others; in others, there will be much criticism or insistence upon technical achievements. There may be a deep yearning for purity and even sanctity, which may lead to self-deception and unsound devotional attitudes.

The Virgo-Ascendant type of person meets his closest associates in Piscean manner; and where he is critical as an individual, he may easily be much too open as a lover or a partner. He is longing for the loss of himself in a collectivity or a cause, just because he is seeking to achieve his individual status as one who has experienced a personal metamorphosis. He has to be devoted to whomever or whatever seems to embody the state of being which is the goal of this metamorphosis.

(Howard Sasportas)

With Virgo rising, the birth into individual selfhood comes through mental analysis, discrimination, self-criticism and the process of defining the self more and more specifically. Often this entails developing greater skill and proficiency in the chosen field of work or area of creative expression. As an Earth sign, there is the need to employ knowledge purposefully; to be useful, productive and of service.

Virgo on the Ascendant draws attention to the physical body and the concern for its smooth functioning. The practical management of the mundane necessities of daily life is also an issue for this sign rising.

Virgo in this position can be associated with what might be called 'the proper assimilation of experience'. Experience, like food, needs to be chewed over and then digested. Catabolic processes in the body separate what is valuable and worth integrating from what is toxic and poisonous. Virgo rising should apply this process to the digestion of life-experience. Through analysing the self and life in general, they can extract from experience whatever is most conducive to their well-being. What is not constructive must be acknowledged and recognized but ultimately cleared out and eliminated. Holding on to such things as negativity and resentment for too long means that the psyche, and sooner or later the body, becomes clogged, weakened and poisoned.

With Virgo rising, there is the danger of becoming so obsessive about order, correctness and precision that a person loses touch with spontaneity and flow. Where Virgo boxes itself in and becomes overly tight and rigid, Pisces appears in one form or another to say 'relax, let go, relinquish control, and let yourself indulge occasionally'. Pisces on the Descendant encourages Virgo rising to relate with others more compassionately and with a greater degree of sacrifice and acceptance than judgemental and critical Virgos usually allow themselves. Through the Pisces Descendant, Virgo rising gains the kind of understanding that dawns when the heart is open and receptive. There is more to life than just that which can be measured, compartmentalized and tested.

Virgo on the Ascendant usually gives a neat, wiry body, capable of efficient and economical movements. Often the person looks considerably younger than the actual age, and a youthful appearance is retained even in the later years. The placement by sign, house and aspect of its ruling planet Mercury will shed more light on the person's appearance as well as his or her major focus of interest.

Jeanne Avery)

The ruler of Virgo is Mercury. This is also the planet ruling the sign of Gemini, but there is a vast difference in the way it is expressed in the personality of the two signs. These mental rising signs have a similar outlook on life in that they view the world through 'adult' eyes, but Gemini is an Air sign and Virgo an Earth sign. The Gemini rising has a more restless, mercurial mind that may flit from one subject to another whereas Virgo rising is more practical in his intellectual activity and pursuits, enjoying research and the collection of data. He is the master of detail, objectivity, and analysis.

Virgo is a mutable sign, meaning adaptability, and is the sign of the workaholic. Virgo rising is a master at handling all the boring nit-picking matters others want to avoid. He is the epitome of neatness and order. The more he is absorbed in fact-finding missions, the happier he is. With a great deal of information stored away in his mind, he is like a squirrel storing away nuts for the winter in his quest for facts. He is perfectly content to analyze a situation many times. He may then reanalyze it just to make sure he hasn't missed anything.

It is easy to spot one with Virgo ascending by the way he takes in a situation around him. He will notice objects in a room that others may not know are there. He sizes up the immediate environment to get the feel of the lay of the land, and then may begin to feel comfortable. He needs to be aware of things, and though he may not be obvious about it, not much escapes his attention. When he begins to ask questions, it's a dead giveaway that he has Virgo on the rise.

Another giveaway trait is the Virgoan need for neatness and order in his environment. He can't function unless everything is in its place. He is a master at making lists, having everything he needs at hand, and perfunctorily taking care of any accumulated overflow of mail, phone calls, or errands. He loves catalogues! Periodically, he will reorganise his closets down to the last minute detail. Department stores conduct a booming business with Virgo rising from garment bags and matching shoe bags down to sectioned containers and drawer dividers. He is a sucker for rotating shelves, appliance holders, and the like. He will buy anything that might do away with clutter and create more order. He will rearrange the counter top in his kitchen to make it just a bit more tidy and perfect. The Virgoan trait for detail is sure to find some expression.

The person with this ascendant is a fascinating conversationalist. He can hold the attention of those around him for hours with his endless store of knowledge and his interpretation of events, yet he may be so busy picking the brain of the person he most respects that it will be difficult to get him to share this information. He has a tendency to hide behind his inquiring mind. He is safe as long as he can put someone else on the witness stand. He may tend to quote other sources, rather than express his own opinion. If he is really feeling insecure, he has a tendency to criticize.

Mercury is the planet ruling intellect, speech, and communications, as well as thoughts and ideas. Mercury was the messenger of the gods. His swift and speedy delivery of information was his chief function. Virgo rising adds another quality to this exchange of ideas in his ability to analyze, categorize, and delete unnecessary

information. The Virgo rising is the one who 'forges' ideas. He loves to pin himself down to long, hard hours of research. He is a fantastic editor because of his awareness of structure and detail. He can easily get to the essential fact of any matter. He is a natural critic. His biggest handicap is the tendency to overanalyze and become so immersed in detail that he forgets to see the overall picture. He can focus on what is in the immediate present, but may neglect his vision of the future. If he is able to see the trees and also be aware of the forest, he is a master at working out the details of a plan. He may sometimes go around in circles with his constant analysis and criticism, and may have to be helped in getting on with the larger picture. He can be overly much the perfectionist. He feels safe with facts but may be insecure when dealing with concepts. It can be important for him to learn the difference between intellect and wisdom.

Karen Zurawski, a speech therapist with Virgo rising, described this tendency by saying, 'I find it very difficult to step out of a situation to look at the whole picture. I can only see what is right in front of me. I can get so involved with details that I don't get past them to focus in on the the overall message. I'm trying to change that, but I'm aware of a tendency to revert to old habits'. The patience and willingness to handle details in connection with a broader concept can lead Virgo rising away from too much attention to unimportant matters.

Since opposite signs can reflect each other, it is interesting to see how Pisces and Virgo can teach each other some needed lessons. One with the Piscean personality is able to see the overall picture, but may overlook essential details. Virgo rising can be nit-picking with details and not so good with concepts. In a constructive synthesis of the two sides of a coin, an individual with Virgo on the rise must be on constant lookout for the grand design in his life. It is then that he can put his fine mind to work in the best way. He may neglect the intuitive mind in the constant use of his practical intelligence in order to avoid a let-down. He may have to be convinced of the validity of that higher intuition. His greatest fear seems to be that of having a pie-in-the-sky outlook. He won't chance being led down the garden path. He questions everything to avoid the danger of disillusionment. He keeps himself on the level of concrete fact in order to avoid the possibility of disappointment connected to idealism, for he would be devastated if his dreams crashed. He may use his left brain to the exclusion of right-brain activity. He may not realize that he tends to limit his perceptions as a safety device.

The individual with Virgo rising has evidently made early survival decisions about using his mind. It appears that he trusts his own ability only when dealing with the facts. He arms himself with intellectual awareness against the onslaught of security. The less safe he feels, the more he talks and analyzes. It may be difficult to look behind the words he says to discover what he really means. If Virgo rising really delivers an onslaught of opinion against the imperfections of those around him, it is difficult to avoid a negative reaction - but that may be the very time he needs reassurance most. If he can keep people away by his verbal attacks, he will never have to deal with that dangerous let-down. He may be crying out to be convinced of another point of view, but it takes a brave soul to break down his defence mechanism of scepticism. When the sceptic does fall, however, he falls hard. It may be necessary to present him with facts that are irrefutable, give him plenty of time to research the situation himself, and leave it at that. If he is asked to back down on an issue his security is threatened all over again. He can then hide behind new information, keeping the real issue at arm's length. His intellectual gymnastic ability is tops, but he will always respect someone more agile than he is.

Using the terms of Transactional Analysis, Mercury relates to the adult ego state. Virgo rising was born expressing his intellectual awareness. In a regression session,

an individual with this ascendant is aware of himself as a 'mind' even at the moment of birth. In even the early stages of his life, he sees things in an intellectual way. If he is encouraged to express his ideas from the beginning, he develops a clear way of communicating. He will then always be able to say what he means and mean what he says. If Mercury is well aspected in the individual chart, it appears that the circumstances or people around him as a child were conducive to his mental growth. His thoughts and ideas were acknowledged and validated, and he was given permission to express himself verbally. If Mercury is not well aspected in the chart, it is difficult for Virgo rising to say what he thinks. He evidently was not given permission early on to think for himself, or he was not heard. He may have felt it necessary to put extra sting or force into his words in order to get attention or to be heard. He continues the kind of communication he learned as a child.

If, for instance, he was encouraged to investigate for himself and accumulate knowledge, he easily continues in his quest for new information. He assimilates what he learns into what he already knows. His healthy scepticism becomes his most valuable trait. He can be an invaluable researcher. He enriches his life by finding balance on the integration of all levels of his mind. Each fact becomes another piece placed properly into the jigsaw puzzle of life. He tunes in to the enormous power of his mind. If Mercury is not well aspected in the natal chart, it is indicative that he was not given encouragement in the development of his own mind. One young lady remembers being told that she should be seen and not heard. A child with this negative Mercury may also have been reprimanded with the injunction 'You don't know what you're talking about' or words to that effect. It is especially essential to encourage one with this ascendant to get in tune with his fine mind and to pursue his fact-finding missions. It is only insecurity and avoidance that keeps him stuck in an overly analytical process that keeps him going around in circles.

With a difficult Mercury in the natal chart, the individual with this ascendant can unwittingly antagonize people around him by his seemingly negative approach. He may develop an overly sharp manner of expressing himself. He can appear suspicious, overly cautious, and particularly sceptical. He may seem to be lacking in tact and consideration. His negative attacks and critical approach keep him on safe ground until he is sure of where he stands. He is evidently in need of reassurance at that particular moment. With some encouragement, he will investigate instead of negate.

Virgo rising loves to be able to quote sources of information. He reads voraciously and is well aware of what others are saying about myriads of subjects. He wants to be well informed but he may tend to accept as authority anything he reads in print, whether books or magazines. He respects anyone he considers an authority on a subject. He can quote what others are saying, but may resist or avoid expressing originality of thought. He is very aware of the newest trends, even though he may be cautious about accepting an idea or attitude as his own until others give their stamp of approval. He can be label-conscious, feeling that something is of value if its name is known. He will always be up on the latest fashion in clothes, food, and lifestyles, for he wants to be in the mainstream of life. He will feel uneasy about being out of step with the times. He needs to be encouraged to express his own thoughts and ideas and to take some chances occasionally, even if it is scary or risky.

This individual is attracted to occupations that require his brilliant ability to analyze. He is a marvellous teacher, editor, critic, actor, or writer. The Virgo rising needs to be involved with communications in general, as he can put others' ideas into crisp, clear form. Technique becomes his security. His creative expression may lean more toward the technical than toward the intuitive. He has fantastic ability to sort through all sorts of information to discover what is truly valuable. An ability to

express a logic and order about his own life and world can be tremendously reassuring to those around him. He is a sound decision-maker. He feels truly good about himself when he is on top of any situation at hand. He can handle detailed work better than anyone else. If you want something accomplished, look for the person with Virgo on the rise.

The symbol of Virgo is the virgin. In its highest sense, there is an innocence and a purity about one with this ascendant. It shows most easily in the high-minded approach to anything sordid. He seems to emerge untouched even when he becomes involved in less than savoury matters.

Virgo rising is rarely mean or ugly. Even the tendency to criticize is, more than anything, a bad habit developed early in life as a defence mechanism. He can be totally unaware of his ability to hurt or wound. He may not realize just how blunt or sharp he can be. He is the one most surprised when someone's sensitive reaction to his words is a cause for upset. He never seems to realize that his cool approach can come across like ice at times. He may appear totally unsympathetic toward another's problems, but it is more than likely that his mind is already at work on the right solution. He may not be given too much pampering or coddling. Unless he can help with a problem, he may feel inadequate and unable to meet others' needs.

In the progression of the signs, Virgo is the sixth sign of the zodiac. The number six is associated with service, work, health. Many Virgo personalities are health addicts. The purity comes into play in their selection of pure foods and lifestyle. Their strong service capacity may be expressed through work in a health service field, but may not always be on mundane levels.

The positive use of Mercury in the chart gives the native with this ascendant an extraordinary power of discrimination. The way this quality is expressed is determined not only by the aspects to Mercury but also by its placement in the houses in the individual chart. Mercury's placement indicates what the individual thinks about and talks about.

Through the aspects to Mercury from other planets, it is easy to see some of the colors and characteristics that modify the pure Virgoan traits. These aspects indicate how the person expresses his intellect and thoughts, the quality of his ideas and speech, and how fluid his thought processes can be. It indicates other facets to his personality, and how his natural ability can be modified by his childhood decisions and experiences. Any conjunctions and positive aspects give added color, whereas the negative or hard aspects modify or nullify the natural ability.

Limitation is keenly felt in childhood when mercury and Saturn are in difficult aspect. This Virgo personality may tend toward a negative approach to life. Pessimism, overcaution, and an overly fearful outlook may be his way of staying safe. He may come into the world with a sense of mission, yet a fear of failure. He may doubt his intelligence, being overly critical and judgemental to avoid his 'ultimate' responsibility. He may be especially fearful of taking responsibility for his ideas and his life. He is the worrier of the zodiac and may blame the conditions of his childhood for his outlook until he learns how to break his negative patterns and programming.

With Neptune ruling the seventh house of partnership, the Virgo rising with his practical outlook may be attracted to someone with an opposite view of life. He can find a visionary for a mate. He can expect and may be fortunate enough to find an ideal partner. The opposite can be true, and he can let himself in for disillusionment in connection with partnership matters. Virgo rising may be totally unrealistic about

marriage early in his life. He may feel that with a partnership situation all his problems will be solved. He may think that marriage will mean walking hand in hand with his love into the sunset of life. If he has donned rose-colored glasses in this respect, he may be very let down.

It is most essential to look at the aspects to Neptune in an individual chart to see the potential for happiness in marriage or success in a business partnership. When Neptune is well aspected, marital life can be ideal. He will find the combination of his practical views and the partner's conceptual ability a fabulous complement. He will be aware of any imperfections or faults on the part of the mate, and be totally realistic about his own expectations; and he can create a fantastic partnership situation with good communication as the basis.

When Neptune is badly aspected, this individual will be totally unrealistic about his expectations. He can be attracted to someone with a naive approach to life and with stars in the eyes. He tends to put a loved one on a pedestal and can glamorize the whole idea of marriage or partnership. He may be unwilling to deal with everyday problems and may not notice signs of decay in a relationship along the way. He can expect a goddess, she a knight in white shining armor. He expects magic and can project his own dreams onto the mate, never allowing for the truth of a situation. He can make unreasonable demands on the partner and be tremendously shocked if the partner doesn't fulfill his dreams.

Virgo rising may have a rude awakening about his practical nature when he can be so impractical in selecting a mate. It is the one area where he allows himself to be unaware of fact. If his dreams are shattered, his love object has fallen from the pedestal, and the rose petals are scattered on the ground, it may be enormously difficult for him to recover. He would find it hard to trust his own perceptions again. If he can be totally realistic about his needs in a partnership situation and express those needs clearly, he can attract someone who will fit into his scheme of an ideal partnership. He may never be satisfied unless he has an almost perfect marriage or relationship.

Many times, the individual fears a strong partnership situation before the fact. Fearing a letdown, he will never find anyone who could live up to his ideal. A mere hint of imperfection negates a possibility of strong commitment. He can keep himself safe by picking the very person who could never live up to his standards, thereby keeping at bay his fear of disillusion.

(Lyn Birbeck)

You are a servant or slave. Mercury is your ruling planet. Your shadow is confusion. Other is a saviour or victim. Neptune is Other's ruling planet.

You approach life with a view to improving the quality of it in some way, and so you have an eye for detail and, more's the point, an eye for what is flawed, unclean, untidy or unhealthy. Consequently, you are almost constantly on the go - there is always something or someone that needs seeing to from where you stand. This means that Other will very often fall into this category of what 'needs seeing to'. So Other may be vague, unkempt, absent-minded, weak, or in some way in need or practical attention - or at least, that is how he / she will seem to you. And this is the point, because you can make a rod for your back with all manner of lame duck, hopeless case, addict or invalid becoming your Other - or workload rather - simply because you see Other as something in need of your attention. Other's response to this will be to be even more vague and unkempt, for you are only too willing to take the strain. But if you dropped your critical gaze for long enough you might see that Other is showing

a way to be more accepting and laid back about life.

Your need for things to be 'just so' masks a fear of collapse and confusion. Put more accurately, your Shadow is actually a profound doubt that life and Other will be all right without your constant attention, especially to those details. You find it hard to trust the fact that in life some things (just have to) work themselves out in their own way and time. As if to show you that you can no more control Other than a sailor can control the sea, the 'confusion' can leak in with your being particularly messy in one area of your life, and quite indiscriminate in some of your relationships. Pick what you ought to let go of - then do so.

A mixture of purity and 'anything goes' would be a shorthand if somewhat contradictory description of your ideal relationship. Unconditional with distinct no-go areas would be another. What all this amounts to is that you are attempting to find that perfect relationship; and the nearer you get to it, the more you appreciate that such a thing is a paradox. And the further you get from it, the more impossible it seems. The answer is to keep working at it until you have distilled that blend of discernment and acceptance

When you are alone, it is simply because you have priced yourself out of the market. Virgo is the sign of the Hermit, so you are more likely than most to get left on the shelf - out of choice, you'd protest. You may well like it that way. More to the point, though, you are inclined to find no-one quite right because there is some deeply-seated flaw of your own which you have classified as untouchable or hopeless. Not so - just simply in need of practice!

(John Townley)

This position makes you a very attentive lover; and your sexual enjoyment is limited only by your imagination and the means to implement it.

You should find a partner who knows exactly what pleases and displeases you. At the same time, you will go to great lengths to find out precisely what turns your lover on, and then you will do just that with love and care.

The only suggestion is not to linger too long on any facet of lovemaking, lest it obscure the overall spirit of the occasion. You may tend to get into a rut physically, so from time to time you should discuss with your lover what you most enjoy so that you can add some variety to your relationship.

You derive great pleasure from the props and surroundings of your lovemaking, from a well-appointed bedroom to all kinds of playful fetishism. In general, you should go by a predetermined scenario, for too many surprises may prevent you from fully entering into the spirit of the occasion.

It is rather important to have a partner who conforms physically with your image of a good lover, and it is wise to discuss ahead of time your preferences in bed to avoid running into problems later. You will be happiest with a lover with whom you can work out a mutually exciting scene ahead of time and then play it to the hilt.

(Robert Hand)

You may be somewhat shy and not very self-assertive toward others. You may think of yourself as an uninteresting person or as one who appeals to only a few people. This is probably not true, but it is a feeling shared by many persons with Virgo rising. In fact you are a soft-spoken, neat and orderly person who is quite likable. Your only

real problem may come from the fact that you are a perfectionist, and you may demand that others live up to the same high standards that you set for yourself. You are quick to point out people's flaws to them, but you should learn to be a bit more tactful. Sometimes correcting someone is not worth the trouble it causes.

You are quite practical, and you do not like to waste time on impractical schemes. If you cannot see the point of some activity, you are not interested in doing it. Often you won't do something for its own sake; it has to have a purpose. But in making objects of one sort or another, you have excellent taste, although very reserved; and you like everything to be both graceful and practical.

If you can be useful to others or find some purpose that you believe in, you will be very happy. You believe in work, and you feel best when you are involved in some project. This attitude will intensify as you get older.

Natal Ascendant in Libra

(Bernice Grebner)

First Decanate (Libra-Libra): Because they want to be liked by everyone, they tend to agree too easily. Their self-projection into activity seems conditional on others. They seem to play their act through more aggressive individuals. They dislike being alone. They usually can't make a stand on something on their own because they want peace and want to be fair. However, there is another type of Libra-Libra Ascendant who can't do anything without dragging a lot of other people into it on their side. They find themselves when they find their partners.

With Aries-Aries on the 7th house cusp, they learn to associate with a partner and to try to understand what partnerships are all about. The person needs to learn to adjust to the partner's desires also, learning that they both need to come to some kind of balance in the relationship. They develop refinement with this position and become peaceful and loving. When they find their partner, they find themselves.

Second Decanate (Libra-Aquarius): They project charm and sociability and a desire to please people. Even so, they retain an independence that doesn't show at first. In love, they are ruled by their minds rather than their hearts. Their natures are very creative, and their creative talents show very original flairs. While they need partners for their personal self-projection to be more effective, they have a tendency to fluctuate between being attached and being detached, which doesn't exactly give lasting success in this department of their lives.

With Aries-Leo on the 7th house cusp, there can be arguments with a marriage partner even though this person really does not want to fight. In fact, there may be arguments concerning his or her friends (perhaps there are too many friends). The arguments come because the 7th house individual sticks up for his or her rights, and possibly the rights of the friends.

Third Decanate (Libra-Gemini): Self-projection is refined and expressive. They can talk to anyone. They can be persuasive lecturers; and even though they may dabble in the ideas they present, it sounds as if they know a great deal more than they do. It is a placement where they know how to gesture and express in order to make a point.

With Aries-Sagittarius on the 7th house cusp, the partner will need to want to be on the top. There will be much coming and going. People with this placement must understand themselves in their relationship to partners (and their desires) in order to retain a certain measure of freedom in marriage, or they will suffer greatly

psychologically.

(Sepharial and Muchery)

First Decanate: A genial but weak nature, easily influenced by women, and disposed to extravagance and unsteady habits; clever in general business matters, frequently changing his pursuits or position; a changeful and restless mind, halting between two courses; gains honour and position by public business, and has a chance of acquiring some property in land or houses.

Second Decanate: Grievances and troubles are shown, but success in the end of life. The native falls and rises in life from his own fault or merit. Fondness for the home life and steadfastness in the affections are characteristics of this decan. In most cases the native is poor, and has some troubles in the marriage state.

Third Decanate: A generous, kind, and amiable nature; well-balanced and fruitful mind; happy marriage and much wealth; many journeys; faithful friend and generous enemy. The native is beloved for his justice and probity.

Physical Qualities: Libra gives a tall, elegant figure, slim but gaining flesh towards the prime of life; well-formed hips; and fair skin, which becomes ruddy or pimped in mature years. (In later life the native inclines to stoutness, and the once pleasant and comely face becomes blotchy through faulty digestion or kidney trouble.) The fine hair may be fair / light or chestnut / brown in color; the teeth and finger nails are good. Frequently the hair of a man of this sign is parted in the middle or nearer the centre than the side of the head. The face is rounded and comely, with a pink-and-white complexion. The nose may be smallish but tends to be long and straight; Grecian-type. The gait is well-balanced. The eyes are bright and compelling, dark-blue or black, with long and silky lashes. There is usually little physical courage.

Mental Qualities: Genial, kind nature, happy disposition; fond of show and of approbation; just, persuasive, imitative; artistic, neat, and orderly; amorous but fickle. Libra gives fine intellectual qualities, and a certain degree of ambition, especially in a feminine horoscope. The character is even, kindly, gentle, well-balanced, artistic; and the native will succeed without great difficulty. This position inclines to early marriage. Libra does not usually give great physical courage, as the native can obtain what he wants without much exertion.

(Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

Libras project their individuality through co-operation with other people; their personalities must be focused on and mirrored in those with whom they co-operate. Their actions express beauty and grace, along with discipline, sternness, and a strong sense of justice. Their strongest virtue is their ability to see any matter from the viewpoint of the people with whom they are dealing. Libras do not like to be alone; they feel lost when they are forced to rely entirely on themselves.

With Aries on the 7th house cusp, Libras can be aggressive in order to gain the co-operation and attention of others. They also have the power to motivate other people into action without their being aware of it. The partners of any Libras must understand that if they want peace they must maintain a high activity level and work hard.

(Dane Rudhyar)

When Libra rises and Aries sets at birth, the individual tends to be a field of operation

for collective urges and group ideals, for it is in terms of group activity, or at least in terms of a strong and idealized partnership, that the individual will learn what and who he is. This does not at all mean that the person will be 'balanced' - the Libran symbol of 'the Balance' is not really understood by astrologers - but rather that he will be much concerned by his social or cultural role, by the value of his acts of self-expression. It will not be easy for him to find himself in aloneness, and he may experience insecurity and inner confusion until he has found his place in some kind of group or society which he intuitively feels to be where he really belongs.

This person will need an individualistic, self-actualizing, emotional partner to help him find himself through their relationship. This may mean at times forcing one's way into a partnership in a rather adolescent manner, or rushing into a devotional commitment to a person - or a personalized cause - in relationship to whom the individual with the Libra Ascendant can display his capacity for group organization and social, cultural or religious enjoyment. Any group experience requires the catalytic presence of an individualized vision or release of energy.

(Howard Sasportas)

Whereas Aries rising calls for wilful, decisive and self-assertive action, Libra on the Ascendant requires deliberation and carefully chosen action based on an objective and fair assessment of any situation. In other words what others need or want will have to be taken into consideration. Reflective judgement is a keynote for this Ascendant: various alternatives are weighted in the balance, and the most appropriate mode of being or acting is selected. However, the capacity to see another person's point of view as well as the ability to look at any situation from all its sides can be crippling to action. Hence the vacillation, the indecisiveness, and the sitting-on-the-fence reputation of Libra rising.

Choices are more easily made if we have a system of values on which to base them. The responsibility to establish a set of values, standards and ideals upon which action can be gauged rests heavily on the shoulders of this Ascendant. It would be so easy just to let another person decide for him / her. And even if Libra rising bases its actions on what is believed to be true and just, is there any guarantee that it will all work out beautifully in the end? A friend of mine is an avid sun-worshipper. On those rare days when the sun shines clearly and brightly in England, rather than spending the day at home in her back garden, she acts on her better judgement and dutifully drives to the office. As a reward we might reasonably expect that 'the gods' should smile down on her for such an honourable decision. But why does it always rain on her day off? Libra rising must learn to make choices and then to take the consequences for them.

Libra rising also means striking a balance between the 'masculine' and 'feminine' sides of life, between mystical urges and practical notions, between 'head' and 'heart', intuition and logic, and most of all between what we want and need and what others want and need. Libra on the Ascendant searches for the perfect relationship, the ideal philosophy, and for that which is harmonious and pleasing. There is often an interest in the arts and an attraction to such abstract systems as politics or mathematics, which offer symmetry and completeness of concept. Many of Libra rising's beliefs and ideals may be too high-minded in relation to the harsher realities of life. At the same time, this Ascendant can be very critical when something does not meet what is desired or expected. And those with this placement can be very tough: 'In the name of harmony you had better see it my way or else'. (Could this be Aries creeping in?)

Relationships are very important to Libra rising, and needed for personal evolution

and growth. If Libra is on the Ascendant, then Aries is on the Descendant. In one sense, meeting Aries in the sphere of life associated with the partner elicits Libran qualities. If a partner is strongly self-centred and assertive (an Aries type), then the Libran Ascendant will have to learn to adjust and make concessions. However, if the other person becomes too unfair, pushy and demanding, then Libra rising learns to stand up for the self and demand the Libran traits of equality and balance. Opposites have a way of turning you into one another. If the Libran Ascendant doesn't like the way you are running the show, you will soon know. Libra will fight for its philosophy or political ideals with ferocity, quashing whatever doesn't fit into its vision of harmony and perfection.

Most textbooks attribute Libra rising with physical charm and a well-proportioned body, but with the stipulation that there is a tendency to put on weight due to laziness or over-indulgence. Air signs on the Ascendant generally have a refined rather than coarse look about them.

The symbol of Libra is the scale of justice. This is the rising sign that seeks balance. Perhaps the primary quality associated with Libra ascendant is his sense of fair play. The primary need of one with this rising sign is harmony. He cannot stand injustice, dissension, or strife. He may spend his life attempting to create the peaceful and beautiful existence he so desperately needs. He is constantly readjusting to align himself to the forces around him to achieve an inner sense of balance.

The ruler of Libra is Venus. Venus is the planet ruling the arts, and describes anything connected to beauty. Graciousness, diplomacy, and sociability are obvious personality traits. Venus is also the ruler of Taurus, yet the difference between the two expressions of Venusian qualities is quite distinct. Libra is an Air sign, while Taurus is an Earth sign. Venusian traits expressed by Taurus rising are more earthy, while the Libran expression is more intellectual. Libra is a cardinal sign, indicating sensitivity and receptivity. Sometimes this sensitive nature can be troublesome to the individual, if he finds himself in a situation of disharmony and strife from which he cannot escape.

The beauty associated with this ascendant is apparent immediately. Refined features, delicate countenance, and perhaps a dimple or two are dead giveaways. The texture of the skin is velvety smooth; and the disposition is usually as pleasant as the appearance is lovely. Men with this ascendant are particularly handsome and charming. The manner of dress is always neat and clean. You will rarely find a Libra rising whose appearance is sloppy, even when he is totally relaxed and off-guard. Good taste seems to be an inborn trait. Subtle scent, a love of jewellery, and tasteful combinations of color can also be characteristic of this ascendant. The graciousness and sense of diplomacy are as much a part of his beauty as his appearance. A sense of harmony that never quite disappears surrounds this person. He rarely loses his charm. Social graces come naturally to him. No matter what the circumstances of his birth, he possesses a quality of refinement, an appearance of culture, and a gentleness of manner.

Libra is the seventh sign of the zodiac. Libra rules the natural house of partnership. This individual has a distinct need for companionship, and is rarely a loner. The desire for association brings him into contact with many people, but it is particularly important for him to find the right intimate relationship so that he can have the love and harmony he so desperately needs. Once he has satisfied his personal balance in a love relationship, he can begin to look further to his sense of social justice. He may have to take care of his partnership needs before he can go beyond to the broader scope. Without love in his life, he is one end of a seesaw, up in the air and rootless. He cannot adjust unless he has someone to adjust to. Sometimes this person will

compromise his own desires just to have companionship rather than remain alone.

Anndee Larsen, with Libra rising, expressed these Libran characteristics in this way. She said: 'I will overlook a lot to keep peace in a relationship. I will sometimes sacrifice what is good for me, in order to have someone to share things with, even if it is only a few good dinners a week. I will do anything to avoid breaking off a relationship until I have someone else around. I seem to meld from one relationship to another. In a work situation, I cannot deal with tension or jealousies. I just cannot perform under that kind of tension. I can put myself under that tension, but I can't take it from someone else. If there's a problem I cannot solve, I'll leave'.

Venus is the planet that rules anything artistic. Color, design, architecture, fabrics, clothing, and decorating are considered Venusian. Perfumes, make-up, beauty products, jewellery, gourmet foods, flowers, needlework, and crafts are ruled by Venus. Theatre, music, dance, and art are also described by this planet. Many people with this ascendant find a natural attraction to occupations connected with these matters. Someone with Libra rising may prefer bubble baths and perfumes to food. Other preferences include art or beautiful literature. The world of diplomacy and government is another form of Venusian expression. Legal matters and the courts of the land are Venusian in their concept because that broader sense of social justice is the highest expression of the need for peace and harmony for everyone.

The list of people with this ascendant who have shown an affinity for politics is outstanding. It has long been observed that the line between politicians and actors is quite thin. Sometimes the lines are crossed with tremendous ease. Early expression of talent and artistry can lead to stronger commitment and eventual participation in legal, political, or diplomatic fields. Many times, one with this ascendant begins to express an artistic talent after he has accomplished great things in his life through politics and world affairs. Whether one with this ascendant confines his activities to serving tea from an heirloom silver service with the accompanying cucumber sandwiches, or deals in matters that can affect social issues for mankind on the whole, there is a need to show that strong sense of sociability in one way or another.

The aspects to Venus in an individual chart can not only indicate how this individual is likely to channel and express his good taste and sociability, but also indicate just how far the person will go to achieve the harmony he desires. Compromise can be part of his characteristic ability to achieve his goals; yet in a negative sense, duplicity and deceit can underlie his charming manner. He can be particularly devious in such a subtle way that he is rarely found out. He can hide behind such a gracious facade that one would never suspect the dangerous personality behind the mask. In spite of his apparently nonchalant manner and charm, this individual is rarely an intellectual lightweight. He may not be able to clearly say just what he is thinking, or he may not want to put all his cards on the table and show his hand; but he is rarely as simple and uncomplicated as he appears on the surface. When Venus is badly aspected in an individual chart, he may go to all lengths to avoid making waves; peace is too important to him. The aspects to Venus will describe how various 'colors' modify the pure Venusian personality, and how the individual will express his quality of graciousness and live his life.

When Venus is well aspected in an individual chart, the inclination is to express this diplomatic, gracious manner in a positive way. He will then find an outlet for his abilities, rather than opting for self-indulgence and avoidance of anything difficult.

It is obvious that many avenues of expression are open to one with Libra rising. Some famous names have expressed the peace-loving personality of this ascendant sign in religious ways. The list of actors with this ascendant is long. The women who chose

acting as a mode of expression include some of the great beauties of the world.

It is when Venus is badly aspected in an individual chart that the person with this ascendant avoids self-expression. He wants to be pampered and prefers to lead an easy life, perhaps one of total self-indulgence. There may be good reason for this lack of active expression. Early childhood conditions have tremendous effect on the positive use of Venusian traits. It appears that one with this rising sign feels safe when he is quiet, good, and perfect. His very survival depends on his not disrupting the status quo. Those with Libra rising may become aware that it is up to them to express their talent in whatever way they desire. When Venus is not well aspected in the chart, positive expression of talent is not as easy for the individual as it would appear.

Since the ascendant is indicative of early survival decisions, an understanding of the Libra rising's first moment in life will clarify his desperate need to avoid strife and to create harmony. In regression sessions, the pronounced similarity of the experiences of a number of individuals leads clearly toward a sense of responsibility to keep the peace in the family. The individual with Libra rising somehow decides that if he is good enough, any upsetting conditions will disappear from the family scene. He becomes overly sensitive to the family environment and decides, unfairly, that it is his fault that things are the way they are. He thinks his goodness will affect the conditions around him. He adopts a pacifistic attitude quite early in life. Later on, in the social milieu or in a tense situation, he falls back on his charm rather than expressing a more positive diplomatic talent.

In childhood, he can overload himself in assuming responsibility, and can feel extremely pressured, although maintaining an appearance of outward calm. He decides the only way he will survive is to give up, to be especially quiet so he won't stir up anything more that could be upsetting. He may unwittingly develop a lifetime habit of taking the easy way out for the sake of harmony. The problem is intensified as he is always rewarded by those around him for being good. He learns to get the attention he needs by his show of charm and niceness. He may never feel safe or secure in showing feelings of anger, jealousy, or competition.

One young lady with this ascendant was born a twin. Her sibling was frequently sick, while she was extremely healthy. During a regression session, she discovered that she felt it was all her fault somehow. She felt guilty and a little one for being healthy while her twin suffered, and felt she had robbed that twin of vitality before birth. Her twin's sickness upset and worried the whole family, and would happen quite unexpectedly. She described her feelings at that time by saying, 'I felt that somehow I was not nice enough. I decided that if I was a better person, somehow my twin would be all right. I decided to 'fast' on fun. It was my penance. If I didn't have any fun and I didn't let myself do anything that was not nice, my twin would be okay. I just didn't feel right about enjoying myself. I bottled up my love nature. I wish I could just love freely, but I've never felt clear about it. I could never ask for anything for myself; and sometimes I felt I was acting in a counterfeit way. Sometimes I just didn't care [about my twin's welfare]. Naturally I felt guilty about that. It's been hard for me to do exactly what I want to do. I'm always behaving as I think I'm supposed to. It can paralyze me sometimes.'

Many times, the Libra personality has difficulty in realizing his true identity. He may never have to learn how to stick up for himself. He may have had his needs met easily because of his nice disposition and his peacefulness. At times, he may have felt lost in the shuffle. It can be difficult to learn how to fight back. He may give up on things that don't come without a struggle. His ability to adapt can become a bad habit, hiding his real desires. He may not know how to say what he really means, hiding his

real desires. He may not know how to say what he really means, trying instead to say what will please someone else. He can be sadly disillusioned when in the 'real' world; his charming, easy manner just means he can be ignored. He may have to learn a whole new set of rules.

Sometimes the early decisions come through photographs of conflict between parents. The child can feel overly protective toward one parent and can feel rejection from the other. He may be overly obedient in hopes of getting the attention and love he craves from that rejecting parent. This was clearly illustrated in the chart of a beautiful young singer whose passive nature was obvious even though she had a thriving career. Her mother had taken care of everything in her career, acting as her manager until the lovely, talented singer was married. She seemed unable to fend for herself, so her husband took over for the mother, handling any difficulties that arose. Periodically, her husband noticed quite a strong character emerge when something was wrong musically. He was mystified, but still worried that if anything happened to him, she would be unable to care for herself. The singer ultimately realized that her passive behavior was her way of including her divorced mother in her life, as she felt protective toward her. It seemed easier to let her mother and her husband do things for her, as it seemed to make them happy; it was easier in the long run. With awareness, she began to take a stronger position in the management of her own career and was pleased to notice the positive changes that resulted.

Libra rising may not like to be around too many people. He can feel more comfortable in small groups, and prefers intimate social situations to masses of people at any one time. He can easily blend with and adjust to two or three people; but when there are too many personalities, he feels pulled and scattered. His scale-of-justice personality becomes like a whirling dervish and his sense of tranquility is thrown completely off balance. In a positive sense, this individual can create such an aura of peace and tranquility that it is worth his while to learn how to express these traits with some self-assurance. An awareness of his artistic ability can start him on the road to self-expression.

Creative outlet through any art form will enable the person with Libra rising to tap and release a stronger manifestation of his love nature. It can lead to a more dynamic, less static experience of life.

In areas of partnership, the person with this easygoing ascendant is attracted to someone energetic, aggressive, sexy, innovative, and pioneering. The combination works well when each partner is in tune with his own personality. They can complement each other and have a harmonious relationship as long as an acknowledgement of individual needs is recognized. If Mars is well aspected in the natal chart, the individual finds a mate who reflects his own aggressive, sexual urges and who is in touch with an ambitious, competitive nature. If Mars is not well aspected, frustrations on the part of one with Libra rising find reflection in a mate or partner who is impatient, angry, or unable to release his aggressive urges. Strife in partnership areas can be the result.

Aries rules the partnership house when Libra is ascending. Aries is the first sign of the zodiac, indicating a natural pioneer, or one who wants to be first. The symbol of Aries is the ram, butting through any obstacles in his way. In a positive sense, Libra rising is fortunate in finding a mate who is not deterred by obstacles. If one with Libra ascendant is aware that he may unconsciously attract one who stirs things up in order to be able to create harmony out of that strife, the relationship is one of balance. Ambitious goals on the part of the mate will channel much of that dynamic energy, and life will be exciting for the peace-making Libran personality. The charm and gracious quality of Libra rising brings harmony into the life of the innovative partner.

The problems occur when the Libran personality looks for someone to do his fighting for him and is not able to express his own aggressive energies. He could then find an explosive situation with a mate who is actually inhibited, secretly angry, and ready to release his frustrations on that peace-loving Libra rising. Hidden rage could be the most damaging part of a partnership situation. To be truly happy, he must be with someone who constantly releases the fighting spirit in creative ways, or in fighting for right.

(Lyn Birbeck)

You are a diplomat or yes-person. Venus is your ruling planet. Your shadow is aggression. Other is a go-getter or bulldozer. Mars is Other's ruling planet.

You want to make yourself out to be an agreeable and sociable person. Having a partner in life is more important for you than any other rising sign, for it is a testament to this aspiration. Furthermore, you are willing to bend over backwards, make all sorts of compromises, and endlessly groom yourself in order to achieve this end of being the Other to an Other. This is all very well and very pleasant too, but the irony is that you attract someone who forces you ultimately to stand up for yourself and to be your own person, and not just someone who harmonizes with someone else. Other to you can be quite disagreeable or lacking in the social graces, and could learn from your innate good manners and powers of diplomacy. But Other may be particularly acid should your style be merely a fashionable but superficial display of socially correct verbiage and mannerisms. However, there is also the possibility that Other will paly along with you (such is our culture's programming to please and gain approval) and that eventually and shockingly the raw and crude reality of each or you will burst out, presenting your very real sense of harmony with a very real challenge.

If you often find yourself being unjustifiably attacked or mistreated by Other, you can be sure that you are being caught in your own Shadow. The image of charm and pleasantness that you project can fool you into thinking that there isn't an offensive bone in your body - or at least, apart from teh ones that you choose to be aware of. But the fact is, being so nice is asking to be pushed around - which is a way of getting Other to act out the aggression that you have but only otherwise experience as anger, frustration or illness. Getting off the fence, stating your case, and being prepared to engage in conflict would resolve matters.

It is desirable that both you and other regard yourselves and each other as individuals in your own right. So a healthy sense of competitiveness is to be encouraged for it helps to keep each of you mindful of your individual worth and effectiveness. Being physically active, together and individually, is also recommended. Without creating or maintaining this theme, outright and destructive conflict could surface.

When you are alone, it is because the time has come for you to develop and come to terms with yourself as an individual being - that is, someone who has only him- / herself to contend with life. Although, or rather because, you need a partner more than most, it is inevitable that you will encounter such aloneness quite acutely at some point in your self-development. Naturally, such a state will not come upon you, or be embarked upon, easily - but it should be seen as a positive turning point, with a better relationship following upon it in due course.

(John Townley)

With your Ascendant in Libra, you have almost an addiction to physical beauty and

grace in sexuality. You are happiest when surrounded by all the props that make lovemaking more sensual and beautiful - fine clothes, incense and perfume, elegant sheets, anything to set the stage for a ballet of love.

If there is a disadvantage to this position, it is that you idealize love so much that it is difficult for any partner to live up to your expectations, both physically and emotionally. Occasionally you must come down to earth, for otherwise you may set your sights too high for any realistic relationship.

In most relationships, you are the one who develops ideas rather than the one who thinks of them. Your talent lies in turning a love affair into an artistic mode of self-expression for both of you. However, you must give your lover plenty of room for personal development and avoid the temptation to be manipulative in order to get your way. Although you may modify and refine the relationship, you cannot choreograph it all yourself; that requires an equal effort and confrontation by both partners.

If the relationship is well balanced, you can shape and articulate it to the point that others will see you both as 'beautiful people'.

(Robert Hand)

With this rising sign, you are likely to be attractive to others and probably popular. Because you are very concerned about getting along with people, you take the trouble to learn how. This is not to say that you never get what you want, but instead of using force of character to persuade people to do something your way, you use charm. Even when your actions annoy people, something in your manner prevents them from getting really angry at you.

You dislike unpleasantness in any form, whether it is physical ugliness or angry feelings between people, so you do your best to keep everything peaceful. And when you are confronted with ugliness, you try to make it better or cover it up with something beautiful.

In this same spirit, you like to dress elegantly, perhaps even flashily, although some element in your taste prevents you from dressing too gaudily. You also like to be surrounded by beautiful things, and you may develop an early taste for art, music and literature.

In your desire to be agreeable, you must be sure not to compromise something that is important to you. Sometimes it is necessary to fight, and you should learn when and how to do so. Many people with Libra rising become quite competitive, once they have gotten over the stage of being agreeable at all costs.

Sasha Fenton)

Libra is a cardinal sign, which means that there is a limit to what you will put up with. It is also masculine, positive and airy in character, which suggests that you appear outgoing and enterprising and that you prefer to deal with the world from a mental or intellectual standpoint. This is a sign of long Ascension, so there are plenty of you around.

This sign on the ascendant denotes a good start in life. However, there may be a few drawbacks even when this most pleasant sign is rising. Your parental home was probably comfortable, your parents kind and your relationship with childhood friends reasonable. As a small child, you were good-looking, popular and charming, and you

managed to keep out of any real trouble both at home and at school. All in all, your childhood experiences were better than most.

The problem is subtle, and it varies a little from one Libra rising subject to the next. Your parents may have left you to your own devices because they were busy. In some cases, the father was a distant figure, he may have travelled away from home in connection with work or he may have walked away from the marriage and left the family; in many cases he actually died when the subject was very young. Sometimes the relationship with the father is quite good but the subject seems to be at odds with the mother. Whatever the actual situation may be, the feeling is one of distance and neglect. It may be that the subject and his parents don't share the same values or that they have natures which clash, although any clashing will be done quietly when this sign is rising. There are many Libra rising subjects who are lavished with guilt-induced 'goodies' by parents who neglect them.

In less difficult circumstances, you will have grown up being well cared for and well understood. Your sisters and brothers may have been less than impressed by your charm, and could have behaved in a jealous and spiteful manner towards you. You were probably a languorous child; lazy, slow-moving, quiet and well-behaved. If your parents were not too neglectful, they would have given you every opportunity to stretch your mind and encouraged you to do well at school. It is unlikely that a great deal of pressure was put on you to succeed, but there was pressure to conform and not to make waves.

Being independent, even as a child, it is possible that you developed religious beliefs and political opinions different from those of your parents. Libra rising subjects don't usually come from a highly religious background but, oddly enough, their parents seem to have very strong political views. Belonging as you do to an independent-minded Air sign, you would have listened to their opinions and then formed your own at a later stage in life. Although slow to do anything, and very slow to come to any kind of decision, you were quite able to think things out for yourself and to work out what you wanted to believe in.

You had, even as a child, a great desire to be surrounded by beauty. Your sense of taste and style is innate - it would have been hard for you to live with mess, dirt and disorder. The chances are that your parents' home was tasteful and attractive, and your own possessions clean and well cared for. You are not slovenly yourself and nor were your parents. You appreciate the arts, music and anything which is attractive and well thought-out. You could have been artistically creative, especially if there are other forces on your birth chart to back this up. Librans have a natural kind of refinement. It is possible, even as a small child, that you assisted your parents in planning and working on a garden or in choosing the colour schemes for the house. This natural Libran taste can be useful to others.

Where appearance is concerned, please take into consideration racial factors and the rest of the birthchart. You are good-looking, although not necessarily beautiful. Your features are refined, delicate and attractive. Even if you are plump, you will have clear skin, beautiful eyes and a lovely smile. In white races, the skin is very fair and the eyes are large, widely set and often a pale luminous grey. You are probably a little below average height with a body which is long in proportion to your legs. Your posture is good and you move with a kind of liquid grace. Your choice of clothing may be conventional or outrageous, but it will always be classy, expensive and in keeping with your personality. You like to keep your clothes for a long time and are prepared to spend money on dry-cleaning, therefore you tend to buy high-quality goods which will last.

You are charm personified. People take to you at once, because of your friendly approach and your genuine interest in what they have to say. Pleasant, humorous and gentle, you are easy to talk to and to get along with, at least on the surface. You enjoy a good old gossip but are rarely sarcastic or hurtful. Your manner of dealing with the world is reasonable, respectful, calm and businesslike. It is rarely brisk or officious. At work you appear to be capable, with an unhurried style which belies your ambition. Friends drift in and out of your life, and though you may forget them for a while, you are always pleased to see them again when they reappear. Unfortunately you lack sincerity, and intuitive people spot this immediately.

Lovely, laid-back Libra - yet another contradictory sign. The evidence from my questionnaires suggests that you didn't enjoy your childhood very much. It is possible that you were afraid of your father, while you may have harboured contempt for your mother. Children from all signs of the zodiac are chivvied by their parents and teachers into making efforts, and many a child is castigated for his or her sloth. Librans seem to be blamed for this more than most. You have a great knack for switching off when asked to do something you don't fancy. You can work very hard, but this will be in fits and starts. You can make a concerted effort when pursuing some money-making scheme or when pursuing a debt, but you cannot keep up the pressure for long because at heart you are lazy.

Librans can be highly ambitious. Remember, this is a cardinal sign. You hate to miss a good opportunity; however, your ambitions may not be immediately obvious to others. Many Libras put the minimum effort into their career while working hard at some outside interest. One example is a friend of mine who has served in the Territorial Army for many years without a break while moving around from one job to another. Many of you are musical, continuing to put time and effort into a musical hobby, even when other interests wane.

Your pleasant outer manner may hide contempt for others. It may also hide fear, inhibition and a well-concealed indifference to the needs of others. Some Libra rising subjects, however, are idealistic, truly hoping to make life fuller and better for other people by working in politics or for some worthy cause. You have one really tremendous virtue, and that is your common sense approach to problems. This, coupled with your marvellous ability to listen and give good sensible advice, easily outweighs all your vices. Your talent for listening and advising is terrific, but you haven't got the strength, or the patience, to become permanently or heavily involved in the problems of others. You yourself need a listening ear from time to time as your confidence is fragile and you cannot always cope with life.

Libra rising subjects of both sexes are highly domesticated. You may be an excellent cook, a terrific do-it-yourselfer or an inspired antique collector. You may, indeed, be all three. You love your home and enjoy family life. The chances are that you will marry and have children while you are quite young. If you are fortunate in your choice of partner, your marriage will be a great success; however, if it doesn't work out, you will move on and look for someone else. You may be quite hard on your own children, demanding better behaviour and a higher standard of education than you, yourself, achieved. There may be a measure of over-compensation here against your own laissez-faire childhood. You are generous to your partner and also to your children. While it may be true that your children are chivvied to 'perform' well, they are unlikely to be kept short of anything which they need. You, yourself, need a good home, filled with the nicest things for yourself and your family.

As a rising sign even more than a Sun sign, Libra is concerned with external appearances and the projection of an image. The image may vary from 'yuppy success story' to 'hip musician', but it is always 'cool' in every sense of the word.

Confrontations are seen as being uncool, and therefore avoided wherever possible. You tend to say what other people want to hear, in order to be tactful. Female subjects can project a very feminine or a very sexy image which conceals a cool business head.

You have a gift for spiritual healing. Maybe this is allied to your ability to listen and advise sympathetically. Maybe it has nothing at all to do with it; but I have come across many good healers who have Libra strongly placed in your birthchart. There is another side to the same coin which governs your superb arbitration talents, and that is your ability to argue a point to the bitter end. You may lose sight of reality while you are arguing and end up making absolutely no sense at all, but you will win by sheer persistence.

The point opposite the ascendant is the descendant or the cusp of the seventh house. Traditionally this is supposed to show the kind of person to whom you are attracted. When Libra is rising, the descendant is in Aries; therefore, the enthusiasm and enterprise of Aries types may well attract you. I have noticed that many Librans do actually marry Arians, but this union is apt to frustrate both parties because the Arian becomes bored with the Libran's slow, calculating outlook, while the Libran becomes tired of the Arian's childishness. Libra may also object to the Arian's dictatorial manner.

Librans need a partner who enjoys work. You are happy to have them work alongside you, as long as they don't try to make your decisions for you. The cardinal quality of the signs on your ascendant and descendant suggests that you must lead, albeit slowly, rather than follow. You require a fairly calm partner who has a strongly confident centre to his or her personality because you have a habit of taking your everyday frustrations out on your nearest and dearest, or ignoring them when you're in a bad mood.

A clingy, unreasonable or jealous partner is no good for you, as you detest being pinned down or having to account for your movements. Oddly enough, you succeed in one situation where many others fail, and that is in the area of second marriages. You do not trouble yourself to argue with step-children or ex-wives or -husbands, preferring to keep the peace if at all possible. Inside your own one-to-one relationship, you may be far from peaceful, but to those on the periphery you appear to be decent and reasonable. If you find yourself drawn into a wider family group, you manage very well because you enjoy the fun of family life and all the extra opportunities for conversation and advice-giving. One point which must be made is that you like to experiment with relationships; therefore, you may find commitment and faithfulness impossible.

Despite your cool outer image, relating is never a cool business for you. Somewhere along the line you will fall in love; and when this happens you will fall hard. You may not show your feelings to the world, but they are strong and deep nonetheless. If you are let down and hurt by this experience you hide your feelings, but they go down deeper than anyone can guess and it is unlikely that you will ever allow yourself to be placed in that situation again. This is a shame because the next person who comes along may be far more worthy of your love, but by then it is too late. Once you have been burned you never place your hand in the fire again.

When you do feel intensely about your partner, your lovemaking can reach magical proportions; and even when this is not the case you are a notably good lover. Libra is a hedonistic sign which enjoys any kind of sensual experience, good food, good music, and, of course, good sex. You take the trouble to make sure your partner enjoys the experience as much as you yourself; and your sensual laziness ensures

that you take your time over the process.

You don't like to make love in scruffy or uncomfortable surroundings. Much as you enjoy sex, you may not want to indulge yourself very often. You may prefer great sex once a month to 'so-so' sex three times a week.

Traditionally, the Libran problem areas for health are the bladder and the soft organs of the stomach. Your liver and pancreas may be weak, so you should limit your alcohol intake and avoid too much sweet food. You could have a weight problem, but your natural vanity might urge you to take action when you realize that you are beginning to look tubby. Libra rules the motor development of the nervous system and, therefore, can be involved with rheumatic or nervous problems, particularly in the spinal column.

Natal Ascendant in Scorpio

(Bernice Grebner)

First Decanate (Scorpio-Scorpio): This gives the person a sexy appearance, a sexual magnetism that seems to have nothing to do with looks or age. The person is strong, has great fortitude. When physical strength requires heroism or determination, this person has it in abundance. There is great depth and intensity. No-one really knows him / her.

With Taurus-Taurus on the Descendant, they tend to be stingy in close relationships, or their partners can be stingy with them. These people need to learn to bend their wills somewhat in favor of others. However, they can be extremely devoted in a deep relationship, and the partner to them likewise. Once the relationship is established, it will last, whether that relationship is business, marriage, or deep friendship.

Second Decanate (Scorpio-Pisces): There are seemingly very sure of themselves. Behind this bold exterior is a sensitive individual who, sooner or later, feels he or she can be hurt by love and puts his or her 'best arrogant foot forward'. Even so, this position can endure more hurt than most. Failure can only spur this person to greater heights after the hurt has subsided. You can't keep this ascendant down for long.

With Taurus-Virgo on the Descendant, there is a tendency to attract mates because of their money or abilities to help this person to make money. Those with this placement criticize their partners or friends too much, or they attract those who do the same thing, and then there is trouble. They may offer helpful 'trouble shooting' but they do not think they need to receive it. However, they can serve these same partners and friends tirelessly, working for them or with them.

Third Decanate (Scorpio-Cancer): Most people see this personality as strong, confident, and enduring. The emotional nature is often released through domestic affairs or religious affiliations. The religious nature is put into orbit through strong emotional pulls of some kind. They have hypnotic personalities that can be used to give others strength and emotional healing.

With Taurus-Capricorn on the Descendant, once they accept marriage they will endure much, either in suffering or in hardship, to sustain the relationship. Their environment will do a great deal to help or hinder them in their efforts to endure. The feelings of responsibility are high with this position.

(Sepharial and Muchery)

First Decanate: The nature is a strong, forceful, energetic one, capable of immense feats of prowess, of endurance and courage. In strige, the native is implacable and dauntless, scorning defeat and danger of reversal. The ambitions are high; the spirit of conquest strong; the will is not less exalted and powerful. Strange and impulsive love affairs, sickness, caused through indiscretion or excess, are the fruits of this decan; but the native has faithful servants, and is born, in most cases, to command.

Second Decanate: Honours and dignities await the native of this decan. It is replete with masterful and governing qualities. Proud and haughty of spirit, the native bears high rule, and may become tyrannical. The native is capable of extreme cruelty, unless a strong guiding hand is over it when young. Fame, or a less honourable reputation, is sure to tall to the ative of this decan.

Third Decanate: The nature is prone to excess and folly in love affairs. The passions need to be bridled. Many enemies arise against the native, and secret enmity from females may be expected. In marriage there will be trouble. The passions are quick and volatile, and the nature is capable of great passional devotion, which, however, is liable to bring disastrous results.

Physical Qualities: Scorpio gives a dark or dusky complexion; thick, curling, dark or red hair, sometimes crinkled or frizzy, and growing on the temples more thickly than is common; often some defects in the feet or lower parts of the body; rather thick eyebrows; aquiline features; prominent brows and sharp facial angles. The native is of average height, with a strong constitution, physical resistance and a muscular body inclined on the whole to premature stoutness. The neck is short and the head tends to be inclined forward. The hands and feet are long, rather fleshy or dumpy.

Mental Qualities: Boldness, confidence in self; fond of contests and strifes, very daring when put to the touch; sarcastic, wilful, impulsive, and determined; of fixed views, subtle mind; not easily imposed upon, but sometimes capable of imposition; frequently a fondness for mystery, or some form of research, occult or chemical, shows itself. From the moral standpoint, the native is self-confident, brave, energetic and enduring. He knows what he wants and will do anything to get it. He has a critical mind, which immediately senses what others think. It is difficult to deceive him, for he is intuitive, or else observant. This position gives the native fine possibilities of succeeding through his own industry, knowledge and skill. With Mercury on the cusp of the Ascendant he will be a remarkably good business man; while a good position of Mars will make him a banker or financier who will have to be reckoned with. This position of the Ascendant is also fortunate for surgeons, occultists, and also for meat-dealers. The native will often lose his father or mother early, according to the aspects which Mars sends to the Sun or Moon.

(Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

Scorpios project themselves with energy and willpower, and are willing to stake their lives to accomplish their aims. It is futile to attempt to convince them that something cannot be done, since Scorpios will do it or die trying. They fortify their objectives with a tremendous, fixed, emotional intensity. They have the ability to draw on hidden resources of power to attain their ends.

With Taurus on the seventh house cusp, Scorpios attract marriage partners who have wealth to offer. They are co-operative in partnerships but expect some practical gain as a result. They spend money on lovely things that have quality. They also spend money on their partners and take great pride in the fact that they look well.

(Dane Rudhyar)

The person with a Scorpio Ascendant will often seek to fulfill his role in society by drawing power from persons very close to him. Numerous political leaders have been born with Scorpio as their rising sign. These people enjoy the use of social power and identification with the need of their people to achieve some sort of organic integration at the national level; but, as they relate to their partners, they draw vital forces from them and they demand concrete results along fixed lines of activity.

(Howard Sasportas)

In the eighth labour of Hercules, the hero has to find and destroy the Hydra, a nine-headed monster who lives in a cave at the bottom of a murky swamp. At first, he tries to kill the beast while it is still in the water, but every time he cuts off a head three more appear in its place. Finally Hercules remembers the advice of his teacher: 'We rise by kneeling, we conquer by surrendering, and we gain by giving up'. He kneels down into the swamp and lifts the Hydra by one of its heads out of the water and into the air. Withdrawn from the water, the Hydra immediately begins to lose its power and wilt. Hercules cuts off all the heads, but a tenth one appears in the form of a precious jewel which he buries under a rock.

This story is closely related to the dynamics of Scorpio on the Ascendant. In one form or other, those with Scorpio rising must confront or grapple with that which is dark, taboo, hidden or destructive. Some will see the beast externally and fight what is dark and evil 'out there'. For others, the Hydra lurks in the depths of their own psyches, symbolizing such destructive emotions as jealousy, envy, greed, excessive lust or power drives.

Hercules succeeded in slaying the Hydra by lifting it out of the swamp and into the air. Similarly, Scorpio rising must bring into the light of consciousness what is dark and hidden inside. If Scorpionic energy is repressed, it seethes underneath, poisoning the psyche and giving rise to a stench which fouls the atmosphere between people. However, if the full force of these emotions are released in an unregenerate manner, their destructive power may be too much to bear.

A third alternative exists. Rather than either repressing the Scorpio side of the nature or acting it out altogether, it is possible to acknowledge the feelings involved and then transform or rechannel them more constructively. Like the jewel which appears when the Hydra is slain, negative complexes can be changed into something precious. Many artists have produced their best works through redirecting passion, anger or rage into a creative outlet.

The snake sheds a skin when growth and pressure from the inside renders the old skin too tight. Volcanic Scorpio rising accumulates internal pressure until an explosion, release and renewal must occur. By choice or coercion, this sign on the Ascendant wipes out and removes old forms and structures so that new ones can be built.

There is a depth to Scorpio rising which compels those who have this placement to burrow their way to the root of an issue in search of underlying meanings and motivations. Nothing is taken at face value. Like Bluebeard's wife, they may open doors which are better left closed. Scorpio rising draws Taurus on the Descendant to itself. Where Scorpio must challenge, attack, destroy and change, Taurus is patient, stable, down-to-earth and persevering. Taurus is equipped to withstand a Scorpio rising's onslaught and then calmly interject 'Don't forget, darling, dinner is at eight'. Those with Scorpio rising need to develop such Taurean qualities in relationship in order to balance the excesses and extremes of their turbulent and strongly felt

passions.

The most obvious physical embodiment of Scorpio rising comes in the form of intense and piercing eyes set in a noticeably penetrating brow.

Natal Ascendant in Sagittarius

(Bernice Grebner)

First Decanate (Sagittarius-Sagittarius): Here is the abstract thinker. The initial projection into physical activity is through adventure in sports, fun, and travelling. They develop great pride in their own ideas and have the ability to inspire others into active adventures with them. They excite others by their very athletic appearance. They must learn to balance the adventurous spirit with teaching others abstract ideas.

With Gemini-Gemini on the Descendant, the mate is usually selected through the use of the mind (intuition) rather than from the emotions. The brother or sister of one of the parties may be important in this marriage relationship. It may also give a partner who is mentally clever and ingenious. It can give much activity by the couple in the community in some kind of educational project or much travelling around to the neighbors.

Second Decanate (Sagittarius-Aries): It gives the tendency to be overly enthusiastic, to start with a big burst of energy and then perhaps lose interest. It gives a tremendous sense of humor. When the self-projection of energy is used for mental pioneering of trends and ideas, it is invaluable; also when used for creative endeavors of an artistic nature.

With Gemini-Libra on the Descendant, they want a lot of sentiment from partners but are not always able to give it back, as there is probably too much concentration on what they want. They can be verbally expressive when they want to be, but somehow their heart is not always in it. Even so, they are very faithful. These people believe in fidelity, and the need is great to have congenial mates (twin souls). They are much more the diplomat in their business associations than at home with their mates.

Third Decanate (Sagittarius-Leo): This gives great awareness of divine consciousness. They project themselves into activity in a manner that accepts the role of teachers or leaders in religion. They are natural promoters and can be very charming; therefore they can let enthusiasm run away with them. However, they are fun-loving and have great expectations, not only for themselves but also for others.

With Gemini-Aquarius on the Descendant, they look for intellect in a partner or someone who is somewhat unconventional and original. These people look for mates who allow them freedom to have other close friends, people who want to study and communicate ideas in order to enlarge their own views.

(Sepharial and Muchery)

First Decanate: This decan gives much versatility and capacity for general work. More particularly it gives a good judgement, a sober mind, a quick intellect; but powers running into profusion and disorder through richness of intellect and lack of method. Troubles and bickerings in marital life may be looked for; many enemies and many conquests. The native rises in life through the exercise of his faculties, and favours the more humane studies, natural science and philosophy.

Second Decanate: This decan confers much romance and strong imaginative faculty, love of travelling and life in foreign lands. Not infrequently it conduces to high renown, and gives wealth and good fortune. Death in a foreign land is to be feared, and in some way the native is responsible for his own demise. Inheritance or legacy falls to the native. The patronage of ladies in high life may assist in forwarding the fortunes. A certain restless activity of mind, together with a rich creative power, characterises the subject of this decan.

Third Decanate: The mind is of a philosophical and sober temperament; the passions are strong, but well-controlled. Riches are difficult to acquire, but are yet certain to the native of this decan. Philosophical and literary pursuits, a taste for lofty speculations and deep researches, preferably of a scientific nature, are the chief characteristics of those under this decan. Success in literature is promised to those born under it. Friendships are few, but very steadfast.

Physical Qualities: Sagittarius gives a tall, well-made figure, sometimes stooping, and inclined to obesity at an early age; a large nose and rather long face; a fine, rounded forehead; grey or blue eyes, sometimes brown, but always fine and expressive; a good, clear but ruddy complexion; frequently baldness about the temples; fondness of athletic exercises. The hair is brown or chestnut.

Mental Qualities: Generous, good-tempered, just, frank, a firm friend; inclined to philosophy and religion; eclectic; not much inclined to exact science; fond of travelling. This position gives fine moral qualities. The native is frank and loyal, and his word is as good as his bond. He is affectionate, devoted and generous, and knows how to win the love of those around him; he will be ready to risk his fortune and even his life, if he judges that those in whom he takes an interest are worth it. He is extremely logical, and his benevolence is self-conscious. This position gives a taste for travelling, a love of philosophy, and the ability to succeed as a Government official, or a director. His mind is essentially materialistic, but this does not prevent him from being interested in religion or philosophy in its practical aspect.

(Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

Sagittarians project themselves with optimism. Their ambitions are geared to large-scale goals. They appear to be friendly, interested, and jovial. However, they have a tendency to take things for granted and to think solely in terms of their own affairs and frames of reference. Their power comes from their ability to influence other people to subscribe to a system of thinking that is arranged to provide them with all the advantages. Nevertheless, the Sagittarians' optimism is a source of inspiration to those with whom they have contact.

With Gemini on the seventh house cusp, frequently there is more than one marriage or partnership, since Sagittarians often have their eyes on greener fields. Even though Sagittarians are primarily loners, they attract people who are intelligent and versatile, and who can aid them in practical ways. They are astute and intelligent in public relations. However, they often prefer that their partners represent them and their ideas.

(Dane Rudhyar)

When Sagittarius is the rising sign, the individual may be fond of outdoor life and travel - or so says the tradition! - but far more significantly he is a person who will come to realize what and who he is through involvement in a great cause, a social or religious belief, a search for truth. This sought-after Truth may be so capitalized that the individual seeks to promote or propagandize it with an often fanatic zeal, or at

least with great dedication. He may find his own truth and dharma through teaching others what has fired his enthusiasm; but he needs the polarizing influence of the more precise, more empirical and analytical Gemini mind. He should, theoretically at least, seek partners who will co-operate with him along practical lines, perhaps along several lines of endeavor so that his generalizations and his expansionism may be fed with a variety of relevant data and multilevel relationships.

(Howard Sasportas)

The symbol of Sagittarius is the archer or centaur, usually depicted as a creature half-human and half-horse. The upper part shows the human torso aiming an arrow into the heavens, while the lower half, the horse, has its hoofs firmly planted on (or prancing over) the ground. Precariously balanced midway between the beasts and the gods, Sagittarius rising evinces this fundamental dilemma in its approach to life. One part of the nature aspires to great heights, noble ideals and lofty achievements, while another side is driven by more basic and instinctual animal urges. Can the animal side emulate the higher vision? The gap between what is and what could be is often painful for Sagittarius ascending to endure: creative ways to resolve the split need to be found.

Another image associated with Sagittarius is that of the Seeker - there is always further to go, always something else to chase after and pursue. With this as an Ascendant, life is best viewed as a journey or pilgrimage. Sometimes the journey itself is more fun than actually getting there: an old motto for the sign is 'I see the goal; I reach the goal and see another'.

As a Fire sign situated on an angular house, Sagittarius rising generates heat and needs an outlet or focus for expressing its energy and enthusiasm. Provided they do not put people off by making too great a display of themselves, those with Sagittarius rising have a knack for inspiring others. This Ascendant also has the ability to imbue events in life with symbolic meaning and importance. Therefore something is not seen as existing in isolation but is appreciated in relation to a larger truth or principle.

The dangers of this Ascendant are those of inflation, overdoing and extravagance. Like Icarus, they may fly too high only to crash down to earth later. Some habitually live beyond their means. Others live too much in the realm of possibilities and never succeed in grounding their vision in concrete terms. How much of a problem this is will depend on the strength of the element Earth or the principle of Saturn in the rest of the chart.

The house placement of Jupiter, the ruling planet of Sagittarius, may show the area of life through which they believe fulfilment might come. It is also the domain through which they can broaden or expand others, or where they might be prone to excesses.

Gemini on the Descendant is the necessary counterpoint to Sagittarius on the Ascendant. In the context of a partnership, those with Sagittarius rising can observe at close range the basic laws and patterns of existence which they have intuited. A Gemini-type mate is ideal for them. The Geminian mind can find the precise words to give expression to the broader concepts and feelings of Sagittarius. Gemini can analyse and question the conclusions of Sagittarius and thereby force the latter to think things through more thoroughly. Gemini provides Sagittarius with the immediate practical steps which can be taken in order to realize goals and aspirations. Sagittarius decides it must get away on holiday, but it is the Geminian part of the self which reaches for the telephone directory and finds the number of the travel agent. Again, as with the other Ascendant - Descendant combination, the

Descendant qualities can be imported via another person or they can be developed within the self in the quest for wholeness.

On the physical level, Sagittarius rising may exhibit a high degree of restlessness. Sometimes there is the characteristic broad mouth or 'horsey' grin, as if it must be that large to allow room for all they have to say. Because of the expansive nature of this sign, there can be weight problems when it is placed on the Ascendant.

The Sagittarius rising will be young and fresh all his life. He will never adopt a jaded outlook, unless he was born with a badly aspected Jupiter in the natal chart. (If that is the case, he will never react to the challenges that another person with this ascendant will take up as a natural course of events. His fear of disappointment is the paralyzing agent that prevents him from seeing his goals clearly.) The willingness to conquer any situation keeps him from static conditions. He will share everything positive in his own experience with anyone else in order to illustrate the invincible nature of man. He possesses the fiery wings of an angel and carries the bow of promise with him everywhere.

Gemini rules the seventh house of partnership when Sagittarius is on the rise. The seventh house indicates the kind of person one is attracted to in partnership areas, whether business or personal. It describes the quality of the relationship and the inner dynamics of co-operative effort. The ruler of Gemini is Mercury, the planet ruling intellect, speech, thought, ideas, and 'adult' programming. The individual with Sagittarius on the ascendant is primarily attracted to intelligence in partnership situations. Good mental rapport is essential.

Romance begins under fifth house aspects. With Mars ruling the fifth house, sexual energy may be the first link to the relationship, yet with marriage, the quality of the association takes on a different tone. Good communication is essential for a harmonious marriage. Since the Sagittarian ascendant needs constant challenges, he looks for someone so stimulating that he will never be bored. The Gemini personality is also in need of constant excitement, so the relationship will never be dull if there is mutual agreement and mutual understanding. When rapport exists, the two personalities seem to spark each other, yet the possibility exists that Sagittarius rising is attracted to individuals unattainable or not worth the effort in the long run.

Aspects to Mercury describe the kinds of marriage possibilities for Sagittarius rising. If Mercury is well aspected in the chart, he finds a partner who is intelligent, funny, and quick-witted. The Gemini quality is airy, sometimes skittish, but always lots of fun. The Geminian gets close to a situation, then pulls away to obtain more objectivity. Sagittarius rising can be seduced by this type of mentality, as he reacts to a challenge. He may never be able to pin this type of individual down completely, and is therefore constantly on his toes. Since one with Sagittarius rising doesn't want anything that is too easy, as long as the relationship is full of fun and stimulation, he is filling his needs.

The problem may come when Sagittarius reacts to a challenge and discovers he has chased a losing cause. If Mercury is not well aspected in the chart, he can be attracted to someone who appears to be intelligent but may only have surface wit and verbal agility. The object of attraction may be critical, argumentative, or just a fast talker. He may actually have a 'dual' personality. Mental frustrations would be hard to take if Sagittarius discovered lack of communication in a marriage or business partnership, or discovered unfaithfulness on the part of the mate, for the Gemini personality can be fickle as well. Sometimes the person with Sagittarius rising tends to be attracted to two people at the same time. Choice may be difficult if Mercury is not positive in the chart.

The Pollyanna, optimistic attitude of Sagittarius rising subconsciously avoids associations with anyone practical. He can't stand to be bogged down by analysis of a situation or too many discussions. He is motivated by enthusiasm and is paralyzed by squelchers. In business or personal situations, the Sagittarius personality must be the salesman or goal seeker, while the partner tends to details, facts, and an analysis of the situation at hand. If Mercury is positive in the chart, the ability to have healthy discussions and reach conclusions seems likely. If not, there can be difficulty in clarification and reaching agreements.

Mercury describes the adult ego state in Transactional Analysis. The adult ego state can analyze, collect data, and clearly state opinions. If children are given permission to speak their minds, the possibility of developing a strong ability to communicate is likely. With good Mercury aspects in the natal chart, Sagittarius rising is attracted to someone who has those abilities. If not, the resulting frustration in relationships is mentally wearing. Arguments can ensue, or misunderstanding in areas of communication or discussion.

When the optimistic, outgoing Sagittarian personality understands what he really needs in a relationship, he looks for the kind of active person who is full of ideas, and busy and productive enough in his own life so that he allows the Sagittarius person lots of room to grow and expand. Freedom to explore interesting new facets of life and people promotes survival for this person.

(Lyn Birbeck)

You are a teacher or preacher. Jupiter is your ruling planet. Your Shadow is inferiority. Other is an enquirer or dabbler. Mercury is Other's ruling planet.

Like the superior being that you are inclined to present yourself as, you express yourself with a larger than life sense of confidence and apparent self-assurance. This attracts Other who, as the eternal gatherer of pieces of information, is impressed by your seemingly broad and effortless grasp of all manner of things. Other sees your persona as a role model for how to give off a cosmopolitan air that makes him / her look as knowledgeable as he / she potentially or actually is. However, should Other become aware that behind any particular facet of your self-advertisement there is no product to live up to it, then a kind of intellectual scorn towards what is seen as smugness or pretentiousness on your part can colour his / her idea of you. Conversely, Other's array of endless but unrelated bytes of information, which is simply diversity, is helpful to you just as long as it doesn't annoy you.

What can really bug you about Other is a certain downmarket, irrelevant or inept quality, with a worrisome nature to match. But this is actually a reflection of your fear of being provincial or in doubt. Remind yourself that such 'inferiority' is an example to you of the common touch and concerns that would greatly complement, even complete, your talent for seeing the bigger picture. Being honest about your doubts will put Other at his / her ease; and, consequently, he / she will feel more confident in him- / herself.

Variety and not getting too tied down are important to you. But so too is having the commitment to a lasting relationship. This contradiction is symbolized by having dualistic Gemini on your Descendant. The resolution to this dilemma is to accept the fact that you lead a two-tone lifestyle and hope that Other will love you for the adventurous and exciting being that you are. Having more than one partner would be stretching this a bit, but if such is the case, it would mean that you found it hard to be honest and share all of your light and shade with just one Other. Then again it could fall to your partner to act out any suppressed duplicity or lack of commitment

on your part!

When you are alone, it is most likely to be because you have simply found it so hard to commit yourself to a relationship that you either have been given up as a hopeless cause, or have never dared take any sort of plunge even into the shallows of a relationship. When it comes down to it, you hate being alone, for then you have to confront what is at the root of relationship problems: your own inconsistencies as opposed to those you see as belonging to Other. Sooner or later, this is the one plunge you will have to take - into your depths.

(John Townley)

For you, love is an opportunity for endless sport, mirth and enjoyment, to be taken in generous helpings and with gusto. Because of this tendency, you should choose a lover with an equally jovial attitude toward sex rather than someone who is overly sentimental about it.

It is not the method or technique of loving that turns you on as much as the sheer joy of mutual participation with your partner. Instead of spending time exploring the sex manual, you are more likely to do whatever comes naturally at the moment, without too much thought or design.

Remember, you probably have much more stamina than most, so you may inadvertently wear your partner out with your abundant energy. Find out just what your lover likes and dislikes, so that you do not stray into forbidden territory unintentionally, thus spoiling your mutual pleasure. In fact, it may be easier to let your partner arrange the details of your lovemaking, so that you just follow along at the right time. Whatever your lover devises, you will doubtless enjoy; and that takes the worry out of preparation.

People with this Ascendant are the most innocent and enthusiastic about sex, an attitude that lends itself to wholesome and joyful relationships without personality hangups.

(Robert Hand)

You are a very open and outgoing person, quite frank and honest; in fact, you may be blunt to the point of indiscretion. But people who are hurt by the frankness of your remarks feel better when they realize that you really do not intend any harm. Your honesty results from a sincere desire to keep life straight and simple. You do not like social niceties, seeing them simply as obstacles to real communication.

You have a great deal of energy, and you enjoy freedom very much. When you have to remain quiet or confined for any length of time, you get extremely restless. If you can't direct your own life as much as you want, you feel trapped. For this reason you are particularly fond of open spaces. Sagittarians usually like mountainous areas; and being outdoors in general is very good for you.

But while you need to run your own life, you do not feel any particular urge to run others' lives. You feel that having control over people is more of a responsibility than you want to take. However, you do not mind informing them of their duties and obligations.

You are likely to be interested in sports and outdoor activities as well as subjects related to the outdoors, such as ecology and nature studies.

Natal Ascendant in Capricorn

(Bernice Grebner)

First Decanate (Capricorn-Capricorn): These people are born old and serious, and should watch the tendency to become too disciplined. The result can be stiff calcium deposits in their joints as they get older. Their physical body gets stronger, however, as they get older. They will work very hard and will sacrifice much for ambition. They want to project themselves as authorities in their field, which can mean more to them than financial success.

With Cancer-Cancer on the Descendant, a woman with this position will tend to mother her mate; a man wants a wife who will mother him. There is a very emotional attitude concerning marriage, even though the Capricorn Ascendant makes them seem very cold and unsympathetic. Financial gain may be a primary motive within the marriage.

Second Decanate (Capricorn-Taurus): Whatever they do must serve a useful purpose. They are conservative, but have natural flairs for using energy in creative art works, which usually are profitable. They are ambitious and use mental energy to gain prestige and money as well. They need to learn to relax and have fun merely for fun's sake. If they love you, they may not be the most expressive lovers you know, but they will be protective and loyal.

With Cancer-Scorpio on the Descendant, they have deep and possessive feelings for their marriage partners and friends. They may keep secrets from those they love, but their loved ones had better not keep any secrets from them. They are loyal, protective and sympathetic; and, even though within the relationship changes may come about, marriage and partnerships endure. They bring a strong sexuality to the marriage, and possessiveness to friendships or other deep relationships.

Third Decanate (Capricorn-Virgo): The health is not so good when they are young; and, because they have had to take good care of themselves, they believe in healthful living and grow stronger as they get older. They are practical and careful, perhaps too fussy at times. They will sacrifice personal physical comfort for ambition. While trying to succeed they will abide by the rules of the society in which they reside. This decanate is more flexible than the other decanates.

With Cancer-Pisces on the Descendant, they need friends and sympathetic marriage partners with whom to discuss their problems. They in turn can make great sacrifices for them. This may be the person who sacrifices marriage to care for an aged or sick relative. They may also sacrifice marriage to pursue some noble cause.

(Sepharial and Muchery)

First Decanate: The mind is masterful and ambitious, but often beset with doubts. The sympathies are narrow, and the native is usually a strong sectarian, or disposed to religious austerities, and at times to self-immolation. Sometimes a fatalist, or yet a believer in the occult, the native is ever fearful of his destiny, yet nevertheless carried onward by a prevailing self-confidence and high ambition. Relatives assist, and again obstruct, the progress of the native. Some secret evil mars the life and threatens the fame of a fair destiny. The decan gives very strong religious feeling, capable of arousing a high and worthy ideal.

Second Decanate: The acme of forceful self-assertion, of intense ambition, and of red-hot enthusiasm is reached in this decan of Capricorn. The native may easily achieve

military honours, but is always in danger of overstepping the limits of prudence, and suffering a speedy downfall. Yet friends are numerous and powerful, and favours fall in full measure to the native. The nature is capable of extreme energy, and may become cruel and despotic unless tempered by prevailing influences of a softer and more humane nature. There are many and constant rivals who threaten the fame and position of the native. With moderation and proper feeling, the native will secure very high honours and a wide fame. The keynote of the decan is conquest, and again conquest.

Third Decanate: The disposition is proud, cold, reserved, and austere, wanting in sympathy and grace. The native suffers through his children, and also runs the risk of financial ruin by speculations. The spirit is melancholy, and disposed to look gloomily upon life's problems. Not infrequently there is danger of premature death. The struggle of life will be hard, because the nature is too self-centred, and devoid of the wider sympathies.

Physical Qualities: Capricorn gives a slight, bony figure with prominent features; a sharp face, with a long nose, frequently bent inward at the point, and a strong but narrow, long chin; firm lips; a thin neck with a very prominent Adam's apple; deficiency in the lobes of the ears; thin, straight, oily, dark or black hair; a very thin, small beard if any; sometimes problems at the knees. The native tends to be short and sometimes reaches an average stature but is unlikely to be tall, and will stoop if the average height is exceeded. The chest is thin and hollow.

Mental Qualities: Wilful, strong in purpose; very ambitious, desirous of government; reserved; capricious; quiet and reclusive, but forceful in action; changeful. Morally Capricorn chiefly denotes an exaggerated sense of independence, craftiness, shrewdness in small matters, much patience and perseverance, often leading to a meagre result, especially in the initial period of life. Later on, if the horoscope on the whole is favourable, Capricorn on the Ascendant procures success in politics or business due to cunning.

(Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

Discipline, systematic endeavor, hard work, and patience are Capricorns' characteristics. Everything they do has a purpose, and is designed to achieve some definite practical end. Capricorns are serious, austere, somewhat melancholy, and reserved.

With Cancer on the 7th house cusp, they are strongly attached emotionally to their spouses and partners. However, the fact that their partners also are often emotionally dependent on them presents problems at times. Capricorns are, moreover, emotional about their relations with the public and with dear friends whom they regard as members of their family.

(Dane Rudhyar)

A Capricorn Ascendant leads one to discover one's own essential identity and destiny in activities that involve the integration of distant factors or of basic antagonisms which can be integrated only by means of strictly logical systems or legal instrumentalities requiring some type of police force to enforce patterns of order. The Capricorn Ascendant will resort to large impersonal or superpersonal concepts or techniques of organization. Carl Jung had a Capricorn Ascendant, and his system of depth psychology stresses the idea that the power of archetypes of the collective unconscious is ultimately more important than that of strictly personal feelings or intellectual concepts.

The person with a Capricorn Ascendant has need of people with whom he can relate person to person, for without such concretizing meetings and close interpersonal empathy he might feel personally overinvolved in ambitious schemes and large-scale social planning, or in mystical and cosmic realizations. Capricorn can refer to experiences and faculties that many people would call 'mystical', but the reference is rather to the type of consciousness that is able or desires intensely to operate in terms of a transcendent type of order, of a cosmic and - in the real sense of this much abused term - occult use of power. He may tend to overwhelm other people with such power, seeking potential subjects in order to fulfill what he considers his destiny. It could be a catabolic kind of destiny.

(Howard Sasportas)

Saturn, the ruler of Capricorn, has a split personality in mythology. On the one hand, we hear about him castrating his father and eating his children. In this sense, he represents a repressive principle - critical, cold and harsh. On the other hand, however, in Roman mythology he ruled over the Golden Age. The Saturnalia was a festival of licence, sensuality, abundance and indulgence - the time of the cornucopia.

The qualities of Capricorn on the Ascendant reflect the dual nature of Saturn. Remembering the general principle that we find ourselves through developing the qualities of the Ascendant, Capricorn there suggests that an appreciation of these two sides of life is needed.

The first side of Capricorn is well-documented. With this sign rising, there is often the sense that a stern father watches over them expecting obedience and certain achievements from his children. The energy and enthusiasm of the previous sign, Sagittarius, must be used practically and productively and within defined limits. They cannot just flow or float with whatever comes along or allow themselves to be swept away by every whim or passion. In order to meet the requirements of the father-in-himself, Capricorn rising has to cautiously plan and structure the life, building logically and slowly towards achieving goals and ambitions. Energy must be carefully measured out and this calls for discipline and control. Capricorn rules the knees; and sooner or later those with this Ascendant must bend in submission to a higher authority - internal or external - which expects something of them. Like Job, it is often through hardship and frustration that Capricorn rising is humbled and learns to accept certain laws, limits and structures. Like Christ, there may be doubts at the last minute whether the sacrifices were all worth it.

In short, Capricorn rising needs to 'make something of the self' and achieve some degree of collective validation and respect. They may rebel and try to escape lessons and responsibilities, but eventually it dawns that they simply feel better if they face obligations, whether to themselves or to others.

What about the other side of Saturn - the deity who ruled over the Golden Age? As a cardinal Earth sign, Capricorn has the capacity to operate very efficiently in the material world. Through developing their potential adeptness in handling and organizing practical affairs, Capricorn rising experiences a sense of fulfilment and accomplishment. Next to Virgo, no other Ascending sign is better capable of creating order out of chaos than Capricorn, or taking a vision of possibilities and making it real. And we mustn't forget the Pan or Satyr side of earthy Capricorn - the capacity to enjoy the physical senses and the natural world. Perhaps it is because Capricorn rising is so aware of the harsher realities of life, that he / she can, by contrast, savour that which is sensual and beautiful.

Capricorn rising has the feeling and watery side of Cancer on the Descendant. The soft-edged, fleshy and rounded image of Cancer opposes and naturally moderates the rigidity and inflexibility of Capricorn. Capricorn rising may look so tough to the world, but often runs home to be pampered and mothered by its mate. In spite of an external hardness or diffidence, those with Capricorn on the Ascendant are unusually sensitive to the feelings of those close to them and often adapt themselves to meet their partners' needs. The stern and judging Father is mediated by the all-accepting and protective Mother. If in one sphere of life we go too far in one direction, life compensates for it in other places.

Many astrologers believe that Capricorn rising, like good wine, matures or ripens well, becoming better and happier with time. Physically, Capricorn on the cusp of the 1st often appears fairly wiry and lean; and there is usually something distinctive about the bone structure in the face. Sometimes, like Pan and his followers, they look a little devilish.

The harsher and more stringent side of Capricorn rising may use sensitivity to other people (Cancer on the Descendant) as a means of better manipulating and controlling situations to personal gain. Another side of Capricorn rising, however, will work hard and discipline the self to bring gifts and talents to the world.

(Jeanne Avery)

The personality of someone with this rising sign can be the most intriguing of all personalities described by the signs of the zodiac because of its very depth and complexity. This individual may appear to be aloof, cool, or remote, yet an elegant quality may conceal an inherent shyness. He is the most responsible of all the rising signs. The ruler of Capricorn is Saturn, the planet that indicates solidarity, security, caution, and reliability. Capricorn is an Earth sign, and is one of the cardinal signs, representing sensitivity. The symbol of Capricorn is the mountain goat, who takes one step at a time, finding sure footing on the steep slopes of his habitat. The Capricorn personality follows this cautious route, setting long-range goals, but reaching the top of the heap in his own sweet time. He must be on sure ground before he can progress.

Traditional astrology pictured Saturn as the planet to fear, teaching that Saturn brought nothing but hardship, burden, and drudgery. It was called the taskmaster. But Saturn has also been named the great teacher. It is true that it seems easier to learn from difficulties than from ease and pleasure. Modern psychology has brought new understanding to the meaning of this planet. Examining Saturn from all directions proves that Saturn is much more than an energy to be wary of. It indicates areas of stability, determination, and practicality. It is the planet of 'gravity' that manifests spiritual qualities on the earth plane. If Saturn were not in the chart of an individual, he wouldn't be on earth, for Saturn indicates the karmic task he comes back to solve and dispense with.

A person with Capricorn on the ascendant can be quite serious and old before his time, for he is not able to take matters lightly. He may even have graying hair early in his life. As a child he appears must self-sufficient and mature, yet there is a lack of security inherent in the personality. He will carefully conceal any pain he feels so no-one would know he is needy in any way. His proper behavior is a façade that protect him. He has somehow steeled himself against the world with a stoic attitude. He secretly wishes he could let down his walls, but he simply doesn't know how. He may be dying for someone to look past the barriers he erects and show the warmth and reassurance he so badly needs. He may be judgemental, cool, and aloof just at the very time he craves affection most. His defensiveness protects him in a strange way.

He can seem chilly when he is anything but that.

This ascendant describes someone who has assumed the burdens of all those around him early in life. It may be entirely subconscious, yet he has what is called an 'Atlas complex'. He desperately needs to be needed. Therefore it is better to be needed by someone than by no-one at all. He can overload himself to the point where he is under tremendous pressure, yet he is motivated by assuming responsibility, perhaps to the breaking point. He tends to wear the 'hair shirt' and is masochistic to some degree. The more he beats himself up, the more he can justify his existence. Deep insecurities stem from early childhood; he feels rejection on a very basic level. It is more than likely that this rejection comes from before his birth, when he felt unwanted by one or both parents.

The interesting complexity of one with this ascendant comes with his decisions about survival. Since the ascendant describes the conditions of birth - the initiation into the earth plane - as well as the conclusions derived due to these circumstances, habits formed at the very first moment can precondition life behavior. Unfortunately, patterns are established before accurate analysis of a situation is possible. These patterns and decisions may be re-examined later on, but until that time, the photographs made early in life set the stage. The birth decisions are especially strong for one with Capricorn rising. The feeling of rejection can seriously inhibit him throughout his life. The birth process itself, for one with this ascendant, is particularly long and drawn out. It appears that one with Capricorn rising is reluctant to come into the world at all.

During regression sessions, the standard memory for one with Capricorn on the rise, or with Saturn in the first house, is that of dreading entry into the world. It is as if he sees the conditions that await him and decides to put off confronting them as long as possible. The resistance to birth is so strong that many individuals with this ascendant recall a feeling of digging in the heels until fatigue set in. The reality of having no way out and no choice in the matter forced him to give in and be born. This extreme dread of life seems primarily concerned with the feeling of not being wanted. Rejection spells lack of safety, with no-one to depend on but oneself.

One of the earliest decisions about survival for one with this Saturnish color to the personality is that he is only safe when he is in control. He doesn't trust anyone but himself, and feels he is all alone in the world. He starts out controlling his own birth as long as he can. In effect, he says, 'Just a minute, I'm not ready... please don't make me do it... I may not be ready for this ordeal for a few thousand more centuries'. To resist birth, he tenses his muscles, grips inwardly as hard as he can, and generally armors himself against the onslaught of life. Later on, he has muscles that go into spasm, and sleeps with tight jaws and teeth grinding. He feels tensions across the shoulders in particular, as that is where the Atlas complex bears down hardest. He can become tired quite easily, as he tends to constrict the breathing mechanism from habit. The general tension of his body wears him out. He may not realize that he is tight in attitude as well.

The Capricorn personality is born with a sense that he is destined for something important. He wants his life to count for something, yet he goes about delaying his 'destiny' as long as possible. He procrastinates constantly, as he has a strong perfectionist quality. Perhaps if he is perfect in all ways, he will be loved and appreciated. His fear of failure is extremely strong. He sets up conditions around him that may border on hardship in order to build character, or so that he won't muck up his opportunity to do what he came into this life to do. He seems to give himself not quite enough elbow room for fear of straying from the straight and narrow.

Childhood is never easy for one with this rising sign. Luxury and ease of living don't seem to be on the cards for him early in his life. He seems to choose to pay back any karmic debt as soon as possible in order to get the worst over with early on. The burden he carries deep within his subconscious can make him sad and lonely, unhappy about his lot in life. He has deep guilts, whether from memories of a past life or from the situation he sees around him. Somehow he feels responsible for any difficulties in the lives of his parents or those around him. If he hadn't been born, all would be roses. Since he sees himself as the straw that broke the camel's back, he decides to be particularly good and perfect. If he is able to accomplish that, perhaps he will survive the worst. He shouts, 'I won't take up much space, I won't eat very much, and I'll be so quiet and good that you'll hardly notice that I'm here'. The shout is heard by nobody.

Capricorn ascendant comes into life feeling as though he is the parent. He feels he has to take care of his own parents, as he is the strong one, reliable, responsible, and stoic. He is able to bear burdens no-one else is capable of handling. He may have a karmic relationship with his parents, feeling that he is responsible for them somehow or other; that their lives would have been easier without him. His insecurities come from an awareness that he is too little to properly deal with the total responsibility he feels he must undertake. His fear of letting someone down is connected to survival itself. He is handicapped right from the start with a sense of defeat. He cannot solve problems for everyone until he is grown. He worries that it may be too late then. He puts himself under such pressure to perform that his performance is hampered by his own concern. He will take whatever anyone dumps on him, as he feels it is his obligation. He will take it and take it, long after it is necessary. When he has finally finished being the doormat in a particular situation, with a particular person, his walls go up so solidly that he is reaching his breaking point. Only he foresees the end in sight, and he cannot give any clues that it is coming.

The Kabbalists say that Saturn is the 'playpen' that Mother Earth put her children in. A playpen is designed primarily to keep a baby safe from harm. It is a restriction, yet a safety. A baby graduates from his playpen when he learns to take responsibility for his actions. He is allowed more freedom if he learns not to 'play in traffic' or get into situations that will harm him. Life seems to provide a 'playpen' for one with this ascendant through restrictive situations early in life. He may have very strict parents who curtail his activities; or he may have losses early in life that put a natural damper on his personality and opportunities. He may have to assume special burdens in the family very early on, making him old before his time. Some sadness can be due to an actual loss of a parent in his childhood. Whatever the actual source of heaviness of heart appears to be, the inner feeling of loneliness, sadness, and rejection causes him to assume responsibility all his life. He will never get away from his need to be needed and relied on. He simply learns how to upgrade the level of responsibility and pressure he takes on. He learns how to be in control without being controlling.

Eventually, the Capricorn ascendant is able to be somewhat objective about his childhood. He can then re-evaluate some of those decisions he made, perhaps without even knowing he made them. His willingness to probe through painful memories lifts great burdens from his shoulders, as he can clearly see that his early decisions are no longer viable. Since his survival depends on his trusting no-one but himself, however, he cannot easily give over the control to someone else. He finds it hard to consult another person in order to gain the objectivity he needs. If he continues to hide behind his fears, guilts, and insecurities, he may be avoiding his ultimate responsibility and destiny. A refusal to examine early issues may be his way of staying safely in his playpen. Finally, if he becomes tired enough of attracting or feeling continued rejection, loss, and hardship, his weariness enables him to give in to what he came into life to do. He begins to take better care of himself.

Transactional Analysis proposes the theory that we have three ego states that are all equally important to express. The use of one ego state to the exclusion of others results in blocked energy. Saturn is the planet associated with the parent ego state. We develop that ego state early in life by listening to our parents' messages or injunctions. The directives necessary for a two-year-old's safety can be very inappropriate later in life, yet we record those messages in our subconscious and act on them long after they are valid. A two-year-old is told such things as 'You're too little, you can't, don't embarrass me, be perfect'. In some cases, these messages become even more stringent and poisonous. If we continue telling ourselves the same things long after those directives are useful, we may be saying, 'I can't, I'm too little, I'm not good enough' when we're old and gray. Parent messages can reinforce insecurities or contribute to their development in the first place. The aspects to Saturn in the natal chart indicate the severity of these early injunctions.

One with Capricorn rising was born expressing the parent ego state. It is the easiest ego state for this individual to deal with because it is developed in him extremely early in life. He seems to set up situations and conditions of life that reinforce a need to take charge, be in control. Past life memory may subconsciously bring in an especially strong sense of duty. He seems to choose to be born to the very parent or parents that will reinforce his feelings, memories. One young lady, during a regression session, experienced a prenatal feeling of not being wanted. Circumstances were not ideal for another baby in the family, and the father was definitely upset over the situation. She remembered her defensive attitude and was aware that she rejected the father before he could further reject her. She assumed a strong parental role very early in her life, deciding that she could do a better job than her father. Later on, she was motivated by a responsibility she felt for her family and for almost everyone around her. Tremendous guilt set in if she felt she wasn't doing everything for everyone and satisfying the expectations of all those around her.

Another lady with Capricorn rising sensed a mission and important destiny before she was born. She knew she had to come to the earth plane to play a decisive role in helping people. She had a very strong sensation that she literally 'used' her mother to get to the earth. It seemed to explain many things in her childhood. She had no real connection with her mother during her growing years, yet often felt guilty for being unresponsive, without knowing why or being able to change. Many times, one with this ascendant feels as though he simply doesn't belong to the family he was born to. He feels he is the outsider and somehow different from other family members. His sense of aloneness and isolation begins very early on.

Natal Ascendant in Aquarius

(Bernice Grebner)

First Decanate (Aquarius-Aquarius): Their self-projection into creativity is very unconventional and original. They are eager to present new ideas of man's right to be himself and his right to individualized self-expression. They stand out in a crowd as being different and unique, either in looks or in how they dress. They are ahead of the times and are considered original and creative or erratic and radical. They will brave public opinion to retain their very prized individuality.

With Leo-Leo on the Descendant, the ego must shine through, with and in the marriage. They must be proud of the partner, and they need love in marriage. They tend to want to dominate the partner, but chances are just as great that they will pick people who will want to dominate them. If this happens they should give each other certain freedoms in marriage and live their own individual accomplishments.

Second Decanate (Aquarius-Gemini): They are friendly, and their self-projection seems light and easy. You feel as if you have known this Aquarius-Gemini for a long time. Their friendliness remains detached, however, and doesn't get very deep. They need to be free and on the move. One time you see them and the next time they are gone. They can express themselves well and make very clever and artful statements. They love others, but more with their minds, and never seem to get beyond the surface of any relationship... unless other configurations say differently. They seem to be geared for the many instead of just the few. They stir others' minds to new and better things. They are the catalysts.

With Leo-Sagittarius on the Descendant, they are not exactly easy to get into a marriage contract. If and when they do get married, it is because there is much friendship involved and the ability to communicate new and advanced studies exists. They need spouses they are proud of and with whom they share their ideas as to what life is all about. First, the need is comradeship and love. They feel if they have this, sex will surely follow.

Third Decanate (Aquarius-Libra): They seek truth and fight hard for the equality of man. They remain independent and free, even though they are very friendly and exceptionally understanding and kind. They identify with each, but still maintain very strong originality. Their curiosity to acquire more and more knowledge is insatiable.

With Leo-Aries on the Descendant, they want people in their environment to be proud of their marriage partners. It satisfies their own ego when they talk proudly about this great partner they have. They are original in their ideas and expressions and seem relatively independent and free to people who do not know them better, but they can be dominated by the partners.

(Sepharial and Muchery)

First Decanate: Bright, cheerful, artistic, and humane in disposition, the native of this decan gathers friends around him. He excels in the lighter sciences and the fine arts, and especially in decorative art and industrial science. He figures in reunions and social gatherings. He is sober and placid in temperament, devoid of unruly passion or excess. He has success in foreign lands, and also in the pursuit of science and literature. He gains property, and has a taste for construction. His life is marked by an even and temperate course.

Second Decanate: The mind is bent on scientific and philosophical pursuits. Great depth of thought and extreme patience are characteristics of this person. Inventive faculty applied to medicine and hygiene is productive of success. Mathematical science, astronomy, and occult research are indicated; independent spirit, penetrating mind, power of assimilation. A lover of solitude and of learned society. Fortune by science or art. Slow but sure success. The native enjoys a fair name and good reputation.

Third Decanate: A melancholy individual, disposed to solitude and nocturnal life. Changeable in fancy; inclined to the lugubrious, to strange terrors and weird experiences, visions, and hallucinations. Women are likely to cause evil in the life of this person, who wanders from place to place. Danger of feeble or afflicted vision; long voyages; peculiar and fantastic appetites.

Physical Qualities: Aquarius gives a tall, full figure with a fine stature and well-formed body; a fine, clear or ruddy complexion; blue or brown eyes; light-colored, brown or flaxen hair which soon becomes thin, especially on the temples, but in

women tends to be very abundant and can be of a beautiful blonde color; an oval-shaped face; defects in the teeth; produces the second finest types of beauty after Libra.

Mental Qualities: Kind, humane, retiring, patient; fond of literature and science; frequently a good singer or musician; quiet, happy disposition; love for humanising influences, surroundings, and pursuits; very fond of a few people; excellent friends. From the moral standpoint this sign on the Ascendant gives benevolence, cheerfulness and liveliness. The native is impulsive, energetic and enterprising; is gifted with fine intellectual and practical qualities, and has a strong personality. He knows exactly what he wants; his ideas are firmly established, and my incline him to be self-opinionated. He has good chances of success in politics, or in some prominent position. He may also have a taste for the fine Arts, and if the horoscope on the whole confirms it may progress in this direction. Marriage is usually fortunate, but he may be widowed. As regards family, the native suffers premature losses.

(Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

Aquarians are original, creative, independent, wishing to make their own unique contribution to the common good. They are at the same time fun-loving, people-oriented, and friendly in an impersonal way. They are modest and do not like to call undue attention to themselves. They would rather be loved than admired. They find their source of power in group activity within a close circle of friends.

With Leo on the 7th house cusp, marriage and business partners who are powerful and well-established are attracted to Aquarians and occasionally dominate them. Aquarians are very independent, however, and this domination is never carried to the point of suppression. The marriage partners are generally amorous and have their own place in the sun.

(Dane Rudhyar)

The individual tends to identify himself, spontaneously and intuitively, with his culture and all the enjoyments it provide; or with great dreams of reform, challenging old structures, pioneering for a New Age. Then, because these cultural forms can be empty of real vital meaning unless personalized, the individual will seek partners who will co-operate with him - partners either in cultural play or in reform and perhaps revolutionary activities. These partnerships may have a very emotional character, because the individual will demand wholehearted co-operation and often exclusivity.

(Howard Sasportas)

Ironically, those with Aquarius on the Ascendant (the point of self-awareness) gain a clearer sense of their own unique and particular identity through standing back and taking an objective and impersonal look at life. Viewing events, people, circumstances and even themselves from a detached perspective affords them a more global or complete picture of the plan of things. A greater awareness of 'the group' and a heightened sense of the social context in which they function supersedes a purely subjective or personal frame of reference.

Aquarius is co-ruled by Saturn and Uranus. The Saturn side of Aquarius rising may look to a group to enhance its own sense of identity or importance. Along with this comes concerns about belonging to the 'right' group, doing the 'right' things, etc.. The more Uranian side of Aquarius on the Ascendant, however, may feel it is inappropriate to conduct the life solely for augmenting or bolstering personal security or power. Something larger than the individual self needs to be considered.

On this basis, more than any other Ascending sign, Aquarius rising can act in accordance with what he or she feels will support or improve the functioning of the greater whole. The sign of Aquarius has been associated with the myth of Prometheus. Believing that humankind could be better off than it already was, Prometheus stole fire from the gods to give to man. Similarly, Aquarius rising can best meet life with a sense of hope and vision of a new future: a belief that with the application of the right theories or concepts, circumstances could be improved. But just as Prometheus is punished by the existing powers for his defiant deed, some modern-day Prometheans may be condemned, mistreated or even imprisoned for theories or actions which transgress or threaten the established authority. And yet, it is the nature of life that old structures and paradigms, when outlived or past their usefulness, give way to fresh patterns and ideas. Aquarius rising is often in tune with the latest trends and new ideas in the atmosphere.

Usually the ideals associated with Aquarius rising are egalitarian - brotherhood, sisterhood, solidarity, fairness, equality and justice for all. For these ends, Aquarius on the Ascendant may assume the cause of segments of society which the existing system condemns or oppresses. Sometimes the vision of this Ascendant is too idealistic and underestimates the force of the more greedy, territorial and acquisitive nature of people. Similarly, those with this Rising sign are often ill-at-ease with irrational and self-centred emotions in themselves or others which conflict with their noble and utopian theories.

Leo on the Descendant is the shadow side of Aquarius on the Ascendant. Beneath the cool objectivity and the egalitarian ideals of Aquarius may lurk the Leo urges for personal power and recognition. Those with Aquarius rising, with all their love of equality and freedom, are often attracted to prestigious and influential people. There may even be a tendency to use others as a means of gaining strength, power and importance (Leo on the 7th). For all their lack of self-centredness, they may sulk for hours if somebody makes them look silly at a party. (The other person will probably get the cold shoulder for days.) Leo feels passionately and intensely and uses its own sense of self, honour and prestige as a primary frame of reference. To avoid some form of Leo backlash, either from within or from without, Aquarius rising is well-advised not to overly denigrate the Leo approach to life. With Aquarius, there is the danger that the needs of the efficiently functioning system will take precedence over the uniqueness, humanness and creative individuality of those who must fit into it. Taken to extremes, the Aquarian dream could too easily turn into an Orwellian nightmare.

Physically, Aquarius rising tends toward a broad build with clear, refined, light and open features. Often there is an electric or magnetic charge in the aura.

Natal Ascendant in Pisces

(Bernice Grebner)

First Decanate (Pisces-Pisces): These people have very vivid imaginations and can be very impressionable. This gives a psychic talent that may or may not be fully realized by them. It gives a self-image that may be very vague. They just don't always know exactly who they are and where they are going. Taken at best, they should become involved in some type of cause for humanity. They must watch the tendency to indulge in escapist experiences that make them feel good. Expression and study of music and poetry are excellent releases. Also work and service in a hospital.

With Virgo-Virgo on the Descendant, they have a tendency to criticize the partner

even when there's no reason to do so. All this amounts to is a transference of their own feelings of inadequacy to their partner. They expect too much, and in most cases it might be better if they stayed single.

Second Decanate (Pisces-Cancer): Their projection into this first house's activity is subject to the reception of their spiritual impulses and expressions to others. They carry with them through all other activities a need to be nurtured; and, when all else has gone, their identity with the need for self-sacrifice remains. They know the mother's influence is instinctive but, above and beyond that, their goals for self-projection remain hidden from themselves. They are driven to creative work with or because of the people they love.

With Virgo-Capricorn on the Descendant, they may marry a friend of long standing, or the relationship with the marriage partner may turn into a friendship. It can work out that they have a conservative marriage relationship. They both have the same friends who are considerably important to both of them, or perhaps a mutual friend got them together in the first place.

Third Decanate (Pisces-Scorpio): Behind this seemingly compassionate, understanding approach is a strong individual, innately sure of himself. This person is geared to solve the mysteries involved with life on earth and beyond. He is critical of the more formal means to studying all higher realm subjects. There is a willingness to sacrifice physical comforts to do this, or it takes the form of not tending to physical necessities (this person will not eat properly; may not take care of clothing, etc.). The interests are high mental and spiritual values.

With Virgo-Taurus on the Descendant, this can be a partnership where both partners work together earning joint income, or it can be working together in a job involving communication, travel, teaching, or any of the mercurial talents. Criticism can result when one is not doing a good enough job or when not enough money is coming in.

(Sepharial and Muchery)

First Decanate: Loss of position; false friends; many secret enemies; morbid enthusiasm and corrupt sympathies; religious spirit, inclining to fanaticism; trouble through love affairs and children; danger of drowning; quarrels and disputes with powerful enemies; early death or affliction of a parent.

Second Decanate: High position and much success; two marriages, or inconstancy in the marriage state; eminent friends; certain elevation and honours; a kind, warm disposition and genial nature, very sympathetic, but lacking in constancy. The inherent merits of the native will raise him to a good position, and will confer wealth by good fortune.

Third Decanate: Loss by strifes and enmities, and by unknown and secret means; success in foreign lands, but a menace of danger; troubles in the marriage state; separation from wife and children; female influence strong, but detrimental; danger of severe reversals, but assistance from friends in high position. At times timid, and anon very audacious, the native is not reliable, and will lose many an opportunity of advancement. A certain religious or fanatical enthusiasm inspires the mind from time to time, but it is not constant, and falls short of end. Passionate nature, infected with an utter disregard of the consequences of action. Fanciful projects make a plaything of the native, and lead him from one to another disappointment.

Physical Qualities: Pisces gives a short or below-average stature; a fully-fleshed body; a well-rounded, full face with a small and round nose and a pale complexion; full but

watery or weak-looking, dreamy or lifeless eyes; small hands and feet; small and short limbs; abundant dark, sometimes black hair; generally a stoop at the shoulders. The native detests walking and anything that entails fatigue (unless other indications in the birth chart contradict this).

Mental Qualities: Loquacious, cheery, changeful, passionate; secretive in many things; difficult to know; generally disposed to a double life; quick in understanding; good judgement; versatile. The disposition is gentle (even indolent), incapable of reacting. The native takes things as they come. He is good-natured, slightly selfish without being spiteful, and shows affection and a readiness to render service to others, provided this does not require too much physical exertion. He detests walking and anything that entails fatigue. His indolence is only equalled by his reserve and his self-centredness. If the native has not inherited wealth, his position will be commonplace; but if he has means, this position makes a benevolent individual, who likes to help the weak. Pisces in the Ascendant is favourable for domestic life, which is peaceful and calm. It may conduce to a large family of children.

(Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

Pisceans are sympathetic, adaptable, ethereal, and visionary. Their achievements are the result of their sensitivity to the subtle currents of their surroundings. Their mystical insight allows them to penetrate the subtleties of human nature. They also have artistic and musical ability.

With Virgo on the 7th house cusp, Pisceans attract hardworking, efficient, and exacting partners who help them manage their practical affairs.

(Dane Rudhyar)

The Pisces-ascendant type may be wide open to the collective unconscious - perhaps a medium, perhaps a true seer. But he may also be a crusader, a leader of armies or of groups dedicated to a greater future for their nations or for humanity. This very openness to the unknown will call for partnerships of a critical Virgo type. The Pisces-rising person will demand of his lover ones that they should pass through ceaseless metamorphoses. He may demand rigorous discipline and a spotless conduct from his associates. Having his vision absorbed by vast changes, he will often meet daily trivialities with impatience and meticulous care. For himself he will rely upon intuition, but will seek to find intellect and accuracy of technique in his partners, or will display such Virgo characteristics in his dealings with others.

(Howard Sasportas)

Pisces rising can embody any of the various manifestations associated with this complex and elusive sign. Like the two fishes swimming in opposite directions in the glyph, the urge to form a concrete and solid sense of ego-identity conflicts with those forces which encourage the dissolution and transcendence of ego-boundaries. The resolution to this dilemma requires that the person with Pisces rising develop an identity which does not exclude the awareness of being part of something greater than the self. Too rigid a personality would make this impossible, and yet too diffuse an identity would create difficulties in effectively dealing with life. In the former situation, nothing beyond the ego-boundaries could filter into the awareness, while in the latter case, the person is overwhelmed by his or her sensitivity and openness. The dangers are inflexibility on the one hand and chaos and disintegration on the other.

Pisces on the Ascendant may manifest on any of the three levels traditionally associated with the sign: the victim, the artist or the healer / saviour. The victim does

not cope well with the more difficult realities of the world and seeks an escape route or crutch - perhaps turning to drugs or alcohol as a way of release. Vague and confused, Pisces rising may flow with whatever is happening, letting other people make choices for them. Some may try to escape the net of daily tedium and entrapment within traditional societal frameworks, turning to crime, underground activity and villainous behaviour.

However, another expression of this sign on the Ascendant is the artistic type. Inspired by the imaginal realms of the psyche, the artist channels his or her perceptions through some sort of medium. The third level, the healer or saviour, dedicates the life to serving others, endeavouring to make real a vision of life glimpsed in a more expanded state of consciousness. Pain 'out there' in the world is felt as their own pain. On all three levels, to varying degrees, this Ascendant is taken over by something which obliterates or supersedes a more mundane existence or limited view of life.

A keynote for Pisces is the sacrifice of the personal will. However, if taken to an extreme, those with this Ascendant may repeatedly set up situations through which others take advantage of them. Besides being trampled on like the proverbial doormat, a lack of clear prohibitions and boundaries often means abandoning the self to emotions and appetites which in the long run are excessive and self-destructive. Virgo on the Descendant provides the balancing principles of discrimination, common sense and a healthy respect of caution and limits. Others may need to provide these qualities but ultimately those with Pisces rising are much better off if they can find such traits within themselves. Some with this configuration will be so absorbed in spiritual ecstasies or high-flown missions that they will require partners to manage the more trivial and mundane necessities of everyday life (Virgo on the 7th). Sometimes the Pisces rising type will be so idealistic and romantic that unconsciously they are highly critical and condemning of others (Virgo Descendant) for not living up to their expectations. Others with Pisces rising derive their identity solely through rescuing or serving others (Virgo on the 7th).

Physically, Pisces on the 1st may have a dreamy, romantic or mysterious quality in the face. The eyes may be large and almost like liquid. Often the overall features are soft and rounded. Like plastic, they can mould their looks into different shapes. In their manner, they may exude a receptivity and willingness-to-please allure which charms and seduces others. Sometimes they exhibit such a degree of helplessness that others are inspired to come to their rescue.

(Jeanne Avery)

The ruler of Pisces is the planet Neptune. When this sign is on the rise, idealism, vision, and high aspiration are strongly in evidence. The person with this ascendant deals with life by seeing only the best in any situation. He adopts a viewpoint of high expectancy and survives by seeing concepts from an overall perspective that may be considered naive by more factually oriented people. He may have a Don Quixote complex and tend to glamorize people and situations around him, yet he can walk through the most difficult times with a clear view of the road ahead. In spite of apparent circumstances, the dreams that parade before his vision have little to do with life as others see it. He puts on his rose-colored glasses, heightens the colors a bit, and carries on. No harsh glare of reality will enter his field of vision unless he chooses.

Pisces is a Water sign and is mutable, or adaptable. The symbol of this sign is two fish, swimming in opposite directions. The most obvious interpretation of the symbology is the inability to take decisive action. The person with this ascendant can

keep himself in a hopeless quandary by duality of direction, yet he accomplishes what he must in life by taking this indirect approach. Confrontation and clear-cut decisions are not his way of handling situations. Since he operates strongly from the right hemisphere of his brain, he may have to wait until his intuitive powers point to the right direction.

The appearance of someone with this idealistic outlook is a dead giveaway. He may be myopic with large, dreamy eyes, and can almost look as if he has a halo around his head. The angelic face completes the picture. That faraway gaze seems to reflect the rosy pictures that parade before his mind. He may appear to be wrapped in cotton batting or gauze, and can sometimes appear to be too fragile to live in a world of struggle and difficulty. He seems to stay ten feet off the ground and be high on life all the time. He expects people to be perfect and to live up to his expectations. He may be totally unaware of any faults. He exudes a naive charm that is exceptionally contagious. Since he is so gentle and kind, almost no-one can resist the temptation to go along with his concept of life. He is worshipped and adored, put on a pedestal of adulation.

Neptune can be described in several ways. It is, first of all, the planet that rules film, therapy, and the glamour world. Photograph provides a natural outlet for this kind of energy. But Neptune is the planet that describes the ability to create the circumstances around us. It is like planting a seed in a flower pot. If one plants a zinnia seed, a zinnia grows, if cared for properly, or if an orchid is planted that is the plant that emerges from the soil. Metaphysically speaking, whatever one can conceive is what emerges and is manifest in the outer circumstances. If conditions are not ideal, the fault lies in the seeds that are planted on a daily basis.

Janene Schneider describes this process as sending out 'purchase orders' to the universe. If five 'desks and chairs' are ordered, that is what is received, yet if imperfect orders are released, imperfect 'merchandise' is returned. Neptune, in good aspect to other planets, describes a fantastic ability to order a good life through being idealistic and expectant. The refusal to see ugliness seems to prevent its existence in the life of one with this ascendant. The effectiveness of this talent is indicated by the aspects to the planet Neptune. The visionary quality is connected with a desire to save the world and to lift circumstances to the ideal level. The problems that can occur stem from an unwillingness to be realistic, however, or a tendency to overglamorize people and events.

Learning to utilize this ability in a practical manner can be like taking pictures of a beautiful sunset. Unless the camera is focused properly, the sunset comes out a blur. Since the person with Pisces rising is constantly 'taking pictures' of events around him, he can manufacture fantastic results by simply combining intellect and practical application with the visionary trait. As long as he believes in his dreams while maintaining awareness of their realistic direction, he finds ideal circumstances. The trouble arises when he sees only the forest and not the trees. When his misty eyes become clear and bright and he faces certain unalterable facts that he may have overlooked, he can feel deceived, let down, and disillusioned. He may become aware of his own naiveté, the most devastating awareness of all. He can feel like an ostrich who has hidden his head in the sand for too long. The letdown is extreme and the dreams in a state of ruin.

If the person with this ascendant comes crashing down from the heights, the reverberating sound can be heard and felt for a long time. His original inability to confront may have been to avoid realistic facts that could be painful, yet the pain is more extreme after a long period of time spent in unrealistic realms. If he can confront, up front, he will avoid the later despair that sets in if circumstances are not

what he conceived. The willingness to take a cold, hard look without losing the vision and sense of perspective brings sharper pictures into reality.

Neptune is like putting a valuable art object on a pedestal. If it comes toppling down and crashes to the ground, the pieces can never be glued together again. The cracks show and the object loses its value. It is no longer perfect. If, however, that object is bolted to the pedestal or enclosed in a glass case, it is still high enough to see, but protected from the possibility of ruin. Keeping the overall concepts in view while working out the details brings projects and situations into manifestation in a clear, concise manner. If one with a Pisces ascendant trains himself to look at life in a totally realistic manner, he can be more effective in every way. He can then inspire others while commanding the respect due him. If he glamorizes, in the Don Quixote manner, he may lose the following of those trained facts and figures. He waters down his plan and becomes disenchanted.

Leigh Taylor Young, an actress with this placement, described this idealistic tendency by saying that she used to project her own vision of beauty and idealism on the outer world. 'As long as I can remember, even as a child, I've taken my inner idealism and put it on the world outside to make it match. I finally became secure enough on the inside to let go of the rose-colored glasses. What is, is so much more beautiful. You finally know where you stand. Separation exists when you idolize. To the degree delusion is present, there is separation'.

The person with this ascendant has a tendency to swing from the extremes of being high on life to the depths of despair. This tendency to vacillate is especially strong if Neptune is not well aspected. Rick Williams, with Pisces rising, describes this tendency by saying, 'Inasmuch as there's one course of action one must take, there is always a part that says it could be some other way. There are an infinite number of variables. That's when problems occur. It's too cloudy with too much going on inside. That's when you have to step out for a while.' Desperation is not long-lasting, however, as the Pisces rising will find some way to get back on top. Sometimes the means of finding the way back up the ladder to dreamland can be less than healthy. Neptune is the planet that rules drugs and alcohol. In the extreme, this swing of the pendulum can indicate a manic-depressive state. If high hopes and dreams are shattered, the soothing cushion of an artificial high can bring wonderful mental scenes and beautiful colors back into his spectrum. The danger comes with a complete reliance on artificial means of realizing the dreams of an idealistic life.

When Neptune is well aspected in the chart, the individual may find that film, photography, poetry, or therapy can act as media tailor-made for self-expression. The Neptunian person can do enormous good for others by using his idealism for inspiration. His vision enables him to lead others out of miserable conditions by somehow bringing greater beauty into their lives. Whether he uses film to create images of idealism or greater vision to lift spirits out of the doldrums, his natural high is contagious. He may be able to sway people through a hypnotic ability. How could one dare disagree with his vision, even though the sight is obscured to others, when the Neptunian person is convinced of his dream? He may shun you completely if you try to bring him down from cloud nine. Be prepared to go to the castle with him, or remain scrubbing out the fireplace forever.

Some of the most adored and idolized actors of all time were born with a Pisces ascendant.

Since the person with Neptune affecting the ascendant really wants to save the world, he can find an outlet for his vision and idealism through religion.

When one with this naive and gentle rising sign gives in to despair and delusion, the results can be tragic indeed. The fall from grace leads from the Garden of Eden to the toil and sweat of daily labor. Many individuals cannot bear the letdown accompanying disillusion and lack of dreams or ideals.

It may be more important for one with this ascendant to find a healthy outlet for his vision than for almost any other rising sign. When this strong Buddhist energy is utilized on the highest level, the results are profound.

Life can be beautiful around a person with Pisces rising until it is necessary to make decisions. He may first ponder a situation, using his intuitive power to help him reach a conclusion, but after living with that decision for a few days he may take off on an exact opposite course of action. He can madden the people around him by indecisiveness, yet by his own peculiar circuitous route, he wins his own race.

If it is necessary to confront him on issues, trouble can occur, for one may never be able to win an argument with a person wearing a Pisces mask. He may not lose his temper, but the miserable, disillusioned look in his eyes can cause another person to feel like a heel. He may sulk and pout until a promise is elicited that the situation will never occur again. The other party may never know what he did wrong, or just what it was that upset the individual with Pisces rising, but the cloudy skies that will prevail over disagreements may simply not be worth the effort. The Pisces rising doesn't easily deal with the power of analysis.

When this trait of non-confrontation is studied in the light of survival, better understanding can emerge. When the individual with this idealistic ascendant is born, he decides he can handle life as he simply doesn't see the ugliness or tragedy around him. He may idolize family members or those he cares about, and adopt an overly idealistic point of view in order to deal with any potential pain. He'll fight to the death to defend his dreams and vision, as survival depends on his seeing things through rose-colored glasses. He can see himself in this same unrealistic, rosy light. He may never know the truth about himself unless he is forced to deal with reality. He seeks people who will confirm his point of view and continue to put him on a pedestal. He searches for associates and 'prophets' who can live up to his own expectations. The alternative is despair, broken dreams, and dissipation. He cannot live without a vision of the ideal future. Utopia is home base for him.

Children with this ascendant need special care in the early years. Parents may encourage this dreamy tendency without being aware of the results. The child is so sweet and appealing, co-operative and gentle, that he never needs scolding or a reprimand. He appears to be 'perfect'. This little angel can get away with murder unless the parents are willing to do some confronting of their own. If small deceptions are not uncovered and he is continually allowed to 'put one over' on his parents, he can go on to bigger and better deceptions. Eventually, the only one deceived is himself. Self-deception is the greatest danger of all. As he may never see himself as others see him, he can walk at odds with the world, living in his own fantasy, not accomplishing the goals he sets for himself due to the unrealistic approach he takes.

The child with Pisces ascendant can almost appear to wear a halo. The ethereal look can conceal facets of his personality that he is aware of but never reveals to others. Since people tend to expect him to be perfect, an unnecessary strain is heaped on the Pisces personality. He wants to be able to live up to others' expectations of him, yet he may feel secret guilt over the fact that he is very human indeed. When he is tired of bearing all these burdens and living up to expectations, he may fall from the lofty heights that others have escalated him to and indulge in the negative side of Neptune

to find his balance. The seamy side of life can expose him to dangers of drugs in his attempt to climb back to the high side of existence. Finding a happy medium of balance can be a long, hard journey. Utopia seems better by far than reality and the ugliness of hard work and survival. Mental hospitals are filled with inmates living in their own private worlds of hallucination.

ince the tendency to delusion is strong with a difficult Neptune, there is an inclination to try to avoid letdown. Glamorizing is the instinctive way to get around seeing the cold, harsh facts, but glamorizing is a set-up for disillusionment. Thus the cycle is completed. Rick Williams continued his expression of this quality by describing it thus: 'It saddens me, this overall human condition... ugliness.... Sometimes I feel frustrated because people can't see beyond their own noses. What I tend to see as obvious may not be apparent to others; but then, I may have missed the point entirely, because it was my way of seeing things. I make a picture out of everything. I can be aware of a negative situation, but instinctively know how to transform it to a positive one in my mind'.

Pisces rising can be heavily invested in being right all the time, simply because if he is not, he might have to re-examine all of the concepts he has adopted throughout his life. He would never be sure what was real and what was not if he discovered he had been wrong. With deeper understanding of the survival issues involved, the person with Pisces on the rise can learn to confront situations up front, seeing the concept but examining the facts as well. He then has a profound ability to rise above potential obstacles, send his 'purchase orders' out to the universe, and create ideal, but realistic, situations in his life.

Opposites attract, or so they say. In astrology, opposite signs rule the ascendant and the house of partnership. This indicates a need for co-operation and the possibility of arriving at the same point of view from exactly opposite directions. If an individual knows what he is really looking for in a partnership, he has a better chance of finding the person to fulfill his needs. When Pisces is on the rise, the idealistic person is attracted to the intellectual who will balance him and help bring dreams into reality. In a co-operative way, the Pisces rising is the visionary, while the partner handles the details. Pisces rising is particularly adept in right-brain activity, while the partner focuses primarily on left-brain activity. If Mercury is well aspected in the natal chart, the Pisces personality is attracted to someone especially intelligent, analytical, and fact-oriented. If it is not, he is liable to find a mate who is critical, nit-picking, and too detail-oriented.

Virgo rules the seventh house of partnership with Pisces on the ascendant. Virgo is the sign of service, detail, and analysis. Intellectual pursuits are necessary for the Virgoan personality. He has the ability to work with great detail. Many editors have strong Virgo characteristics. The planet Mercury, ruler of Virgo, is related to the adult ego state. The adult part of the personality is the fact-oriented, detail-conscious, intellectual facet. In its positive sense, strong 'adult' decisions are possible after research and analysis. In the negative sense, this facet describes an overly analytical quality that may make the resolution of problems difficult. When the Pisces ascendant with a well-aspected Mercury enters a partnership with a Virgo, the co-operative effort brings fantastic results. The Pisces rising will lift the Virgoan personality above the morass of fact, while the Virgo person helps to focus the Pisces. The balance of vision and intelligent application is unbeatable. In a negative sense, the Pisces person sets himself up for disillusionment by selecting a partner who can blow his dreams to bits. If he is more realistic up-front, willing to deglamorize the mate, the partnership can work beautifully.

(Lyn Birbeck)

You are a saviour or victim. Neptune is your ruling planet. Your Shadow is scepticism. Other is a servant or slave. Mercury is Other's ruling planet.

You are very sensitive, as if the whole surface of your skin were picking up on Other and the environment in general. You channel or deal with this in a creative / mystical or evasive / dreamy fashion. You're not quite sure where you begin and Other ends, and will dart off into the shadows if things get too barbed emotionally. Yet at the same time there are some things about Other that you find very hard to resist - are addicted to, in fact. Other will probably view all this popping in and out as chaotic and in need of sorting out. This of course can make you even more evasive, but if you value Other's perspective, you will receive his / her practical assistance. In return, you are quite dedicated to Other, helping or healing him / her in a subtle, psychic way. Negatively, Other can become a slave to your elusive charm as he / she tries to order your chaos. More than most rising / setting combinations, this one depends upon meeting one another half way.

Other's critical attitude toward you is really the form your Shadow takes. This means that for all your vague and dreamy manner there lurks behind it a scientific and sceptical attitude that finds it hard to accept certain things, but not anything, that does not have a rational explanation. You still like to maintain an area where you can be totally illogical, so it can be pretty difficult to determine where you're coming from. Suffice to say that making clear what you accept and what you question would itself clarify relationships.

More than anything, you require a relationship that is crystal clear about its own nature and status. The trouble is that you can confuse having such a thing with having an impingement on your freedom to meander where you will. This can be a big mistake, for vague relationships for you are rather like what uncharted waters are to a rudderless boat. A clean, wholesome and definite arrangement is, despite your suspicions or apparent aversions, your best bet. A sailor without a home port can eventually get lost or washed up.

When you are alone, or adrift, it is down to one or more of the illusions described above. Be it your need to roam the Seven Seas of the yet to be experienced, your over-sensitivity that makes you allergic to being close to an Other, or one of your many brands of evasiveness, they all have behind them one thing: your fear of facing your own music - that is, your own hurts, egotism, lack of faith, or anything else that strands you between the devil and the deep blue sea. The flip in your own slippery tail is that in being alone you are ultimately forced to face this music of yours. And when you do, you'll know the score and thereby attract the Other who can and will help you in just the way that you need to be helped.

(John Townley)

You are highly empathic, and your physical involvement with a lover is directly geared to your emotional and psychic involvement.

You happily participate in any kind of sexual expression that your lover desires, not for the experience alone but as a vehicle for becoming closer to your partner.

Once you have found the partner you want, you are the most willing and supple lover, but you must take care that your own personality does not get lost in the process. Because of selflessness and generosity, you may be taken advantage of on occasion by even the most honest and decent lover. It's better not to offer that temptations; be gentle and giving, but retain your individuality and independence.

In general, you will be happiest with a lover whose sexual consciousness is rather highly developed. You can easily transform physical sex into a highly spiritual experience, but only if your lover is willing to go in the same direction. Sexual mysticism, such as tantric yoga, is well worth trying; it will sharpen your sexual expression to a keen and delicate edge, which can turn lovemaking into an almost religious experience.

(Robert Hand)

You are very sensitive and can perceive others' feelings very quickly, but in such a way that they become your feelings. For this reason, it is a good idea to avoid being around negative people, because you will start feeling negative also. You are inclined to be idealistic, so it is important for you to believe in something beyond what you know with your senses. You should avoid people who try to disillusion others as a matter of course, because when you become disillusioned, you feel bitter and depressed.

You like to dream and to retreat to your own little world from time to time. This is fine, but you should not use it as an escape too often. Your imaginative quality may give you talent in art or music, or it may simply emerge as inventiveness and creativity that you can apply in many areas of your life

You are very sympathetic to others. If someone needs help, you are there to give it. In fact, you may gather around yourself people who are dependent upon you in some way. This can create problems later in life, if you start living for such people rather than for yourself.

You are not always very self-assertive, and you may be envious of those who appear to have more energy or who can push to get their own way. Do not envy them, because the world needs your kind of person also, the quieter people who try to make the world better for the rest of us.

This is a Water sign which is also mutable in nature, suggesting emotionalism and changeability. Pisces is also feminine / negative, which implies introversion, shyness and a caring nature. This is a sign of very short ascension, which means that, in northern latitudes at any rate, there are very few of you around. Oddly enough, even in southern latitudes this sign does not have a particularly long period of ascension; therefore you are a truly rare fish.

If you have the misfortune to be born with Pisces rising, you could have experienced a truly horrific childhood. You grew up in a 'mother-dominated' household. Your father may have been severely incapacitated by illness or simply a very weak and ineffectual character. He may have died while you were young, or he may have deserted the family, leaving your mother to cope alone. Your mother was probably strong enough to cope with this, but she may have become embittered or self-pitying as a result.

Some Pisces children have very poor health. The heart, lungs and bronchial tubes are weak, and there may be other problems as well. I have no real evidence of this, but my instinct and intuition tells me that many potential Pisces rising lives may be lost through birth defects, infant mortality and accidents. I suspect that a good many of those children who spend their lives in hospitals or institutions have this ascendant. I am even prepared to bet that a number of children who die from neglect or abuse have this rising sign. The best that one can say about it is that when the progressed Ascendant moves into Aries there may be a positive change in your luck as well as a

change in your attitude to life.

Your problems began while you were still inside your mother's womb! At that point in her life, your mother may have been unhappy, unhealthy or short of money, and in no shape to have a baby! Your entry into the world was difficult and dangerous, and your survival over those first few weeks was in doubt. Even as a small child, you had the look of an 'old soul'. You seem to have entered this world with the remnants of a previous life still clinging to you, although of course nobody had the time to notice this. It seems that you are born to fulfil some kind of karmic debt, at least during your early years! The suffering which you underwent as a child could have arisen in a number of ways. If you were the type of Pisces rising child whose health wasn't good, there would have been occasions when you were so ill that you were not expected to recover. You may have spent some time away in a hospital, or in a school for delicate children. Even if you were not sent away, you would have spent a good deal of time alone in bed, reading and thinking. It is this enforced withdrawal from life which allowed your creativity and your imagination to develop.

Your health may have been all right, but you would still have been lonely and unhappy a good deal of the time. A Pisces rising girl called Michelle told me that her father left her mother to bring up two children on her own. Her mother had to work, of course, but also enjoyed a great social life with many boyfriends, holidays and outings, leaving Michelle in charge of both the household and her younger sister from a very early age. Despite this, Michelle did well at school, learned to speak a number of languages, and became a courier in the travel trade.

It is just possible that your home life was quite reasonable, but that you were not on the same wavelength as the rest of the family. You may have preferred to laze about in your room, playing music and drawing, rather than helping with the chores or getting on with your studies. If you were this type of Piscean, you would eventually have drifted away from the family and made a life for yourself among like-minded people elsewhere.

In your own case, your education may have been good, bad or indifferent. You seem to have had plenty of opportunity to develop your talent for sports, art and dancing, even if the rest of your education was poor. It is possible that you found it difficult to relate either to your teachers or to some of the other children. The children, or worse still the teachers, might have taken it upon themselves to bully and torment you. Whether this was the case or not, you may have 'switched off' during childhood, returning to the world of education in adulthood, either through evening classes or by teaching yourself. One can guarantee that you will become an authority on some subject of your own choice later on. It may be gardening, the language and culture of foreign nations, or the psychic and spiritual side of life. Other Pisces whom I have met are mathematicians, historians, artists, language specialists, or skilled sports and dance teachers.

Bearing in mind racial factors and the influence of the rest of the birth chart, you should be of medium height and size, with a pale, translucent complexion and fine blonde hair. I have seen Piscean eyes described in an astrology book as being 'like a semitic blowfish'. There is some truth in this. Your eyes are probably very pale grey or grey-blue in colour, and they may be large and lustrous, or simply prominent. (Apolo's Note: some of the details of color etc. given here clash with those given by other writers, and do not invariably hold true against reality, so take them with a pinch of salt!) Women of this sign spend a good deal of time and money perming and lightening their pale, flimsy hair. Nowadays, male Pisceans also perm and colour their difficult hair. You are slim when young but inclined to put on weight later in life, especially if you give up smoking. One of your best features that cannot be seen is

your voice. You have a quiet, gentle and humorous voice which is pleasant and relaxing to listen to. Your choice of clothes is casual and sporty, but not especially unusual. You prefer to put something on and then forget it rather than to try to create an 'image'; and you are not especially self-conscious about your appearance. Oddly enough, you may be fussy about the colour of your clothes, preferring to stick with one or two colours with which you feel comfortable.

Under normal circumstances you are friendly, non-hostile, and welcoming to new acquaintances. You project a gentle, helpful, kindly openness; and your ready wit and considerable intelligence make you fun to be with and a very pleasant friend. The problem is that you are not totally reliable, because you prefer to drift in and out of people's lives rather than becoming a permanent fixture. You can be incredibly hostile to anyone who looks as if he or she might take it upon him- / herself to talk down to you. In business situations you appear intelligent, sensible and capable, and are very quick to pick up the essence of the situation. However, you are an excellent actor, and therefore you can fit into any kind of company or situation. One aspect of your personality which you find hard to hide is your irritation when under pressure. You can become tense, tetchy and surprisingly nasty.

You may find that other factors on your chart swamp the Piscean influence so that the usual astrological tendency for the ascendant to be on show, while the other features on the chart are hidden, may be reversed.

The sign of Pisces is represented by the image of two fish which are swimming in different directions. I have noticed that there are two distinct types of Piscean one of which represents the practical fish, while the other represents the nebulous, chaotic, dreamy one. Most of you appear to lean towards one of these two natures, whilst having at least a touch of the other one about you somewhere. If you are one of the practical types of Piscean, you will be very attached to your home and family. You have a great longing for a nice home of your own; and if you are lucky enough to eventually obtain one, you will spend a good deal of time and money keeping it in apple-pie order. You may collect antiques, keep a wonderful garden, or become the do-it-yourself-er of the century.

Both sexes will be excellent cooks, but you have to watch that your own love of food doesn't spoil your figure. You are surprisingly ambitious, needing to reach a position of status and respectability. This may be a reaction to what you saw as your parents' dereliction of their duty. If your childhood was reasonably normal, then your parents may have made you feel inadequate in some way, which, in turn, also leads you to become ambitious. Whatever the childhood situation might have been, the reaction is the same. You want to get on in life! This may be surprising news to those of you who are used to reading astrology books which stress the dreamy, non-materialistic side of the Piscean nature. If you don't have any great ambitions for yourself, you certainly will have them for your children. In the meantime, you need a comfortable, attractive and secure home, and will go to great lengths to see that you get this.

Now we will take a glimpse at the other Piscean fish. It is worth remembering that Pisces is a mutable sign, which denotes restlessness and changeability. You are a dreamer and a fantasizer; and your dreams may take you in any number of different directions. This intuitive and imaginative side of your nature is probably inborn, but your unhappy childhood definitely helped to foster it even more. You spent a good deal of time imagining what life would be like, thinking 'if only... I were a princess; I won a million pounds; I became the world champion snooker player...'. You may have spent a good deal of time alone, either by choice or by force of circumstances; and this too allowed you to stretch your imagination by reading, dreaming, thinking and generally fiddling around. You may be so emotional that you don't know what you are

going to say (or feel) next.

This lonely, introspective childhood will have given you the time and space to develop your creative and intuitive abilities. You may have become an excellent artist or musician, you may make up marvellous children's stories, or you may be able to inspire others in order to make their dreams come true. You could be drawn to the world of metaphysics; perhaps in the form of astrology, mediumship, white (or not so white) witchcraft, or some kind of old religion, such as Druidism. You will be driven to search for a deeper meaning to life and the hereafter. Whether you take the route of deep religious and philosophical thought, or simply a fascination with ghost stories, it is merely a different manifestation of the same urge. You need to escape from our everyday world of practical matters and endless chores in order to delve into the far distant land of beyond. If I do a quick mental round-up of my Sun in Pisces or Pisces rising friends and relatives, I come up with devout Jews, spiritual mediums, spiritual healers, dowsers and ley-line hunters, astrologers and Tarot readers, palmists, regression hypnotherapists, artists, writers and musicians. All of them are canny, sensible, capable and hard-working, but all are equally involved in the search beyond our everyday world for the world which lies hidden beyond the veil.

Now let us take a look at both of the fish on one plate, so to speak! You have a great desire to help others and even to sacrifice your own needs for the sake of others, but I'm not sure that your motives for this are altogether altruistic. You may have a need to see yourself as the soul of goodness; you may wish to see yourself as the knight in shining armour. If you insist on continuing to live in unhappy or awkward circumstances, you should look inside yourself and examine your motives in order to see what it is that you are gaining from the situation before bemoaning your fate to everyone around you. Nevertheless, you are absolutely wonderful in a crisis. If anyone, even a new acquaintance, turns to you for help, you immediately understand the problem and act at once to solve it. You can be a great worrier. You may worry about your health, your family or the imminence of a nuclear holocaust; and, if you have nothing to worry about, you will go and look for something. You care about small matters and rarely stop to think whether the situation which is currently on your mind is really worth all the anguish. Any form of injustice upsets you and brings you immediately to the defence of the underdog. If it happens that an animal is being ill-treated, you really lose your temper and go all out to rescue the poor creature. As it happens, some Pisceans relate better to animals than to people, while most love to own animals and look after them. You have no prejudices against people on the grounds of race, religion or colour. Indeed, you like your friends to come from diverse backgrounds because this makes them all the more interesting.

Where practical matters are concerned, you can be surprisingly careful. For example, you hate unnecessary waste and will re-use old envelopes and save paper bags and so forth, for a rainy day. You may never be rich, but you hate to be in debt, and you usually have a few pounds tucked away for emergencies. You don't like to borrow money, or to be under any kind of obligation to others, but you quite like it when others are under an obligation to you as this fulfils your need for self-sacrifice while, at the same time, giving you a small measure of control over them. One thing you do hate, however, is to be owed money. If at all possible, you will chase up a debtor; if the debt is not repaid, you will never forget and never trust the defaulter again. Your strong sense of self-preservation saves you time and again from disaster, and you can be very canny when it comes to making sure that your needs are met.

SIGNS ON THE M.C.

Natal Midheaven in Aries

(Bernice Grebner)

First Decanate (Aries-Aries): This can give arguments or friction with authoritative figures. They try to find their place in a vocation and it should be something martial, mechanics, engineering, military or some profession connected with driving. They need to show the public how good they are as a leader in some type of vocation. It can give the ability to be a business pioneer in a new type of venture.

With Libra-Libra on the nadir, this person needs a partner to live with in a home that will be artfully decorated. The partner will show a conservative tendency and the native will choose to share the high ambitions of his / her mate. A woman with this placement may choose a partner who treats her as a father would. If a man, he will choose someone to mother him.

Second Decanate (Aries-Leo): This position gives them great mental stimulation in the vocational area and those who can become very egotistical because of their success. They have great dramatic ability whether for entertaining on the stage or in swaying the public in the business life by being sensitive to the public needs.

With Libra-Aquarius on the nadir, these people are solicitous to the family and very home-loving. They do not like to live alone but feel comfortable, warm and safe with someone to share their beautiful homes (which must be beautiful). However, behind all this they have original ideas about sexual freedom and its power to rejuvenate their lives.

Third Decanate (Aries-Sagittarius): This gives executive talent in a career. They are able to reach the top because they are willing to project and use their energy and work very hard. They serve tirelessly toward a goal. There is a talent for realizing proper legal procedures by a kind of instinct which can be made even better by becoming educated in some form of law, no matter what the actual vocation.

With Libra-Gemini on the nadir, they want homes very much but can't make up their minds where they want their homes to be. They need precisely the proper environment, but can't seem to find it. They may seem peaceful and quiet but they are not. They have a deep unconscious dissatisfaction that they cannot explain. They can tell you interesting facts and not really know how they know them.

(Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

These people must work hard in their professions, and they channel an immense amount of energy to their jobs. They are impulsive in matters concerning work and public reputation. If they are employed, they can easily be hurt by harsh or unfair treatment of those in authority.

With Libra on the 4th house cusp, they cultivate art, beauty, and refinement in the home and are emotionally attached to their household objects. They consider the family a partnership and insist on strict justice and fairness for all members; otherwise emotional problems arise that will put everything out of balance and affect the peace of the household.

(Jeanne Avery)

Mars rules the 10th house when Aries is on its cusp. Mars is the planet of action, determination, drive, and ambition. It is indicative of the pioneering spirit. If Mars is well-aspected in the natal chart, a sense of competition will spur the individual on to an innovative way of handling career activities. His natural energy will be directed toward a career situation which requires drive and determination to succeed. He will naturally be attracted to areas where competition is possible. He will enjoy a good fight with competitors equally talented or capable as he. A challenge will stimulate him to do bigger and better things with his energy. He will enjoy spending time discovering innovative ways to handle certain matters and will be quite resourceful when it comes to his public life and career. Much of the ability to handle this kind of ambition comes from the relationship with the parent of the same sex. There can be a kind of healthy competition with this parent which programs him to be ready for the challenges ahead. He can photograph this parent as energetic, ambitious, determined, and a fighter. This will naturally make it 'okay' for him to use the same kind of energy in his own career. If, however, he has photographed that parent as frustrated, angry, and impatient, he may have difficulty in releasing his own angry energy in a creative manner.

Mars is the planet that rules sex as well as highly creative energy. If that energy is turned inward it becomes frustration, impatience, and anger. Much of the ability to release the sexual, creative energy has to do with subliminal parent messages about the energy. If there was guilt on the part of the parent about his own drives and sexual energy, the child, too, will feel guilty. If that parent gave good encouraging messages to the child about directing that creative energy, the individual will have no trouble finding a career that utilizes his ambitious, directed sexual energy in a good way. No matter what kind of messages he received, there is a likelihood that frustration with the slow pace of career situations can sometimes occur. It is in this area that the native with this Midheaven sign is most impatient.

It is toward career matters or public life that he will direct much of his sexual energy, however. If his career is not challenging enough, he will find that an active social life can keep him calm and more patient. He will probably enjoy dancing or some sort of physical activity in connection with his social life. If he is in a career situation that is especially frustrating, he is liable to use up some of that excess energy in less than healthy ways. Mars energy can indicate a tendency to fight, drink too much, rebel.

In a positive, sense, Mars indicates being 'first' in career matters, a pioneer. The person with Mars on the MC needs to be free to show his resourcefulness in the career arena. If he is in business for himself, he will do away with many of the frustrations he would ordinarily have with employers and bosses. If he was frustrated in his relationship with the parent of the same sex, he will allow himself to stay in a frustrated career situation. Actors with this Midheaven find a natural release just by being involved in a competitive business. Recognition comes through the willingness to take chances and pave the way for others. High creative ability is possible with a better direction of energy.

With Libra on the IC, the trying time for this person is in childhood. Once the individual has worked past oversensitivity and overly emotional reactions to make contact with his particular abilities, it appears that he allows himself to have beauty and love in his life. Venus is one of the planets that is called a 'benefic'. It indicates love, beauty, art, ease of living, and social matters. The parent of the opposite sex is photographed as a loving person, perhaps artistic. This is the parent that the individual loves and adores. If Venus is well aspected in the chart, the love flows easily between the child and the parent, but if Venus is not well-aspected, the child may have photographed the parent as copping out for the sake of peace and easy living, or one who avoids making waves in life, taking the easy way out, or being

overly diplomatic.

The person with Libra IC is so invested in his home that you can be assured it will be a place of beauty and color, as well as ease and comfort. He will certainly love his home and will surround himself with the kind of environment that will provide the right atmosphere for his nurturing instincts. Color is especially essential for the sensitive nature of this person, who must have peace and harmony, love and affection at home to restore his emotional balance. Often the attunement to public tastes and sense of color and decor can lead this person to interior design.

If Venus is badly aspected, the individual with this IC may not put effort into beautifying his home. He may not realize how sensitive he is to environment and color. The very shades of the spectrum of color can affect his emotional state at any given time. If he is depressed, it can be important that he surround himself with bright colors - yellows, oranges, greens, and vivid shades. If he tends toward brown, gray, and black, he is only making it harder to pull himself out of his emotional rut. Examination of the relationship with the parent of the opposite sex can give him special clues as to the kind of environment he chooses, and why. He may tend to be easygoing and more peaceful when he is at home, even inclining toward laziness. This is where he wants to let down, desiring peace and harmony more than anything. He goes to his home when he is in a vulnerable state, to restore himself. Venusian activities occupy him there - cooking, painting, and social activities in general. He becomes more diplomatic as he grows older, being inclined toward peacemaking, social justice, and finding balance. Love and affection seem assured in later life. He may have problems and lessons to be learned in those areas early in his life; but as he works past emotions he comes to the understanding of love in a different way.

Natal Midheaven in Taurus

(Bernice Grebner)

First Decanate (Taurus-Taurus): They have strong determination to make money in a career. This person is not interested unless enough money and public acceptance goes along with it. Only then will they work harder than anyone else. Making something substantial out of nothing is one of their attributes.

With Scorpio-Scorpio on the nadir, they will never talk about the things that go on in the home life. There may be an element of sacrifice in the caring for a parent who is ill or a parent who is in financial straits. In any event there may be a situation in the family that will remain a mystery to friends or to the public. One parent may be possessive and possibly too strong or overpowering. This can also be true with Scorpio on the 10th house, but it would be the opposite parent.

Second Decanate (Taurus-Virgo): Taurus has a hard time letting go of leadership, which causes a hidden block to financial gain. They must serve willingly without conditions; then reward will come and not before. This is a spiritual lesson, somehow. Their concentration should be on the job to do, and not how much money they earn or whose ego is satisfied by leadership. Remember the forces help those people who do not care who gets the credit.

With Scorpio-Pisces on the nadir, this person may bring a skeleton-in-the-closet influence. They keep family secrets to themselves; they manifest an outward pride in the family's presentation of an image of good breeding. They can feel hurt and unloved and, by refusing to say what is bothering them, they may push the family away without meaning to do so. Then the circle goes around and around, and they feel hurt and unloved again.

Third Decanate (Taurus-Capricorn): They can be generous with the public (up to a point) if they think the job will become big enough. This gives the ability to stand up to all kinds of hardships and hard work while enduring much abuse if favorably in the public's gaze. In the end, though, they will want big financial rewards. All these drives can cause a reaction resulting in health problems.

With Scorpio-Cancer on the nadir, if there is anything wrong on the domestic scene, you will never know about it. They put up a good front, and you will think all is fine when it isn't. (Leo on the Ascendant makes them good actors.) This can give karmic conditions with the family. They keep their deeper emotions to themselves; if they feel unappreciated they may suffer secretly. Some of their problems come from holding on too tightly to members of the family. Even though they do not show it, they need to be loved and cared for - and if they are, it is the greatest rejuvenating medicine they can get. This can give a mother complex of some kind.

(Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

Taurus MCs earn money primarily to support the high standards of living which fit their dignified self-images. They desire prominence and wealth.

With Scorpio on the IC, they do a lot of growling around their family; it's the nature of the beast. But the privilege to growl is confined to the king. Outsiders should not step on the toes of any member of this person's family or they will know what it is to have a wild animal at bay. Often there is a great deal of activity in the basements of these people's homes or in their dens; and they all need their own private 'dens' somewhere.

(Jeanne Avery)

Venus is the planet that rules Taurus; and Venus is the planet of love, beauty, sociability, diplomacy. It rules the artistic world in general, whether that is art, theatre, or dance; and it indicates social life or social concepts. The person with this Midheaven is naturally attracted to all artistic activities in his social life or in his career. He can also be interested in matters that bring pleasure to the public, or anything that brings beauty to people in general.

The tenth house not only describes natural attraction to a particular public endeavor, it describes the way the public reacts to an individual. With Venus ruling this position, the reaction of the public to one with this Midheaven is especially favorable and full of love. Social matters are easy for one with this MC. He will always show the gracious part of his personality to the public or in his social life.

This house also describes the parent of the same sex. It indicates the relationship between the parent and the child with this placement. It would appear that love is the strongest bond between them, unless Venus is badly aspected. The child photographs the parent as beautiful, charming, and gracious, but perhaps also stubborn and determined. He inherits a natural ease in social situations from that parent. Taurean expression frequently indicates a natural ability to entertain. This parent is more than likely to have had a special ability to make people feel relaxed, at ease, and welcome. If Venus is not well aspected in the individual chart, however, there is a strong possibility that in the eyes of the individual with this MC, the parent of the same sex took the easy way out. There is then a natural tendency to avoid the artistic expression that is such a lure for one with this Midheaven. It may also be more difficult since there was no natural example from that parent to follow.

With Scorpio on the IC, these people really show their sense of style in connection with home life and lifestyle. They want royal splendour around them, and usually manage to create a symphony of lavish living. They need a king's castle to really feel on top of the world. Somehow they will find their own Taj Mahal, or a similarly opulent base from which to go forth into the world. Their castle is their home rather than the other way around. Some individuals can operate within a small space, but the Scorpio IC needs a surrounding fitting for their expansive nature. He may express his personal power or effectiveness in connection with land or real estate.

With Pluto, ruler of Scorpio, describing the fourth house of home, the biggest change in the life comes with the attainment of the kind of home he really wants. Even if his surroundings early in life are less than fitting to his royal nature, he manages to acquire his own mansion later in life. How easily this is accomplished depends on the photographs he has made of the parent of the opposite sex. Since he is capable of fulfilling the unrealized potential of that parent as he grows older, it can be essential to examine the qualities in that parent that he truly admires. He may have to look closely at any feelings he may have about getting even with or proving something to that parent, which could be causes of rebellion sooner or later. He may wind up jumping out of the frying pan into the fire.

Pluto is the power planet. It relates to the child ego state, as described by Transactional Analysis. Pluto can best be characterized as a powerful body of water, turbulent in its dynamics. If a body of water of that power is left to flood the riverbanks, it can bring destruction in its wake, yet can be especially dynamic if it is dammed up and controlled. The parent of the opposite sex is always a powerful force in the life of the person with Scorpio on the IC. He sees that parent either as powerful, charismatic, magnetic, and childlike in a positive way, or as someone who manipulated or used negative game-playing to get what he wanted from life or from his Scorpio-IC child. He may have felt the rug being pulled out from under him by that parent. The parent is never someone to be ignored.

The aspects to Pluto in an individual chart indicate just how that parent used his forceful, charismatic, magnetic nature and how the Scorpio-IC assimilated the lessons from that parent. If Pluto is well-aspected, the individual inherits a sense of universality, resulting in the same high motivation that characterized the parent. If, however, Pluto is not well aspected, it may be that the parent neglected to utilize his personal magnetism for a high purpose, resorting instead to game-playing, manipulation, and a refusal to grow into his potential. The strongest message conveyed from that parent is: 'I want what I want when I want it and I'll get it any way I can'.

The positive image of Pluto indicates that the Scorpio IC is aware of the enormous effect that parent has on the people around him, uplifting them by some seemingly magnetic force.

Each person with this IC has the potential of reaching the most fulfilling time of his or her life with the passage of time. All the seemingly unattainable things or situations desired early in life come easily later on, although perhaps in unexpected ways. The Scorpio IC begins to develop group consciousness and to become aware of his true potency, perhaps heading his own organization, but certainly reaching out to masses of people in whatever way he chooses. The more he becomes in tune with the universal flow, the more dynamic he becomes. With the highest motivation, he flies like the eagle to show mankind the right road to take. Inadvertently, he may end up with his own castle or mansion, especially if he needs it as a base of operation for the good of all.

Natal Midheaven in Gemini

(Bernice Grebner)

First Decanate (Gemini-Gemini): Unless they have a variety of interests in their vocational field they become bored, restless, and unhappy. They make good speakers and are well able to communicate to the public in a way that the populace will understand. Give them people around them on the job, and they are much more effective.

With Sagittarius-Sagittarius on the nadir, they will always do right by the family. They like to invite people to the home and discuss higher-mind subjects and the latest developments. They may hold classes (in the home) and possibly take money from their students for their instruction. They may never be satisfied with their home in the sense that they will always want bigger and better ones. Perhaps they will have two: one in town and one by a lake (at least this is their greatest desire). Their high morals are beyond question.

Second Decanate (Gemini-Libra): When it comes to vocational fields they are best working with partners, people with whom they can discuss the problems and help make the decisions. They are more successful if they choose vocations where they can talk or use their powers of communication. The Libra influence makes them fair and diplomatic in dealing with their cohorts. With partners they can and do make money.

With Sagittarius-Aries on the nadir, even though they are the leaders of religious or advanced discussion groups held within the home, they may be really very secretive with their own true leanings. They will put on airs, appear to be very religious and moral in most ways, but you can bet there is a skeleton in the closet... and it may be enormous. They are always worrying about other people's homes or property. They concern themselves with other people's betterment.

Third Decanate (Gemini-Aquarius): They want the vocation to benefit as many people as it can. They desire, above all else, to mingle and discuss issues on the job, and want this to be part of how they earn their living. Theirs are not the vocations where they work alone. The desire to work with a lot of people is stronger than the kind of work they do. Original ideas concern working conditions for all others too, not just for themselves.

With Sagittarius-Leo on the nadir, they enjoy privacy in the home and will always do what is right for the family. They fail most of the time to receive the recognition they deserve. The tendency is to work behind the scenes for the person on the throne, secretly wanting to be the ruler themselves. This can give a strong spirituality to the point of martyrdom or self-sacrifice.

(Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

Gemini MCs engage in professions that allow them to utilize both mind and hands to implement their original ideas; and these ideas bring them fame and recognition. They often become involved in more than one professional activity. Many of them work in the field of communications. This fulfills their desire to be remembered for their genius.

With Sagittarius on the 4th house cusp, spacious and comfortable homes are important to them. They like to provide a place for everything and to see to it that everything is in its place. While visitors are generously treated, these people are

especially generous with their own families. Their families, indeed, usually get along better than most.

(Dane Rudhyar)

When Sagittarius is at the cusp of the fourth house, philosophical, religious, or ancestral concepts should be sought as roots for the stabilization and strengthening of the personality. A personal ambition to leave a strong imprint upon society may be a significant factor. The early home may be open to many influences and visitors. The mother may have intense religious convictions and impress them upon the growing child and adolescent. There may be early travels in childhood. Later on, in times of crisis, the individual will tend to renew his inner strength by strong acts of faith in his destiny, and by seeking philosophical or moral justification for his feelings and perhaps his social ambition.

With Gemini at the Midheaven, intellectual capabilities should be used to the utmost. The assistance of intellectuals, specialists, researchers will be important to the pursuit of a social or professional goal. A quick mind can be most valuable in adjusting to the demands of whatever public attention one has to deal with. This power of social adaptation and the ability to handle information should balance the determination and perhaps self-righteousness and proselytism of Sagittarius at the chart's Nadir.

(Jeanne Avery)

Gemini is ruled by Mercury, so this person needs mental stimulation in connection with his career. He can channel and release many of his thoughts, ideas and mental energies in the public arena. Since Gemini is the 'airy' expression of Mercury, he must be fascinated by his job or he will become bored and restless. Any career activity must be fast-moving, and have variety. He seeks mental stimulation in connection with social life as well. He enjoys interesting conversation, mental games that challenge him, theatre, and anything that appeals to his intellect. Gemini is a dual sign or the sign of twins. The duality really has to do with objectivity as opposed to closeness. If the person is too close in the public arena, he may have to pull away at times to gain perspective. In order to be truly stimulated and challenged mentally, this individual may need to have two occupations at once, if one is not interesting enough.

The tenth house also indicates the relationship to the parent of the same sex. He identifies with that parent for good or otherwise. He may copy the behavior of the parent even though he may not like some of the qualities expressed by that parent. He may share many of the parent's opinions or judgements and may develop a tendency to criticize as a result of that programming. It can be most important to examine his mental photographs in order to break those patterns. He sees the parent as someone restless, full of mental energy, easily bored but stimulating. He will choose a career as a result of his pictures of that parent. He may hear dual messages from the parent.

One young lady was shocked when she examined her mother's messages and recognized their duality. She remembered her mother saying, 'Do what you want to do. I'll support you in anything, but know your place and stay in it'. She was aware that her life was less than fulfilling as she had followed her mother's example, remaining at home, running her domestic situation to perfection, but feeling frustrated at the lack of a career. She found it extremely difficult to break that early conditioning.

Many times, Gemini MC develops its scepticism as a result of early communications with the parent of the same sex. If Mercury is well-aspected in the natal chart, the patterns set forth by that parent were encouraging and stimulating. The parent evidently was able to give permission to the child to express his thoughts and ideas, stimulating him on an intellectual level. If Mercury is not well aspected, communication with his parent is difficult. The parent may not have fulfilled his or her true intellectual potential, inadvertently frustrating the Gemini MC child in his career fulfillment. With awareness of the programming, the personality of the child with Gemini MC can express the unfulfilled potential of that parent, going beyond the parent's accomplishments and finding his true place in the sun.

With Sagittarius on the nadir, this individual seems to pick a home and lifestyle that reflects his philosophical, expansive needs. This is the house that describes the parent of the opposite sex, and the conditions around the individual in the latter part of his life. Jupiter is the ruler of this sector of the chart when Sagittarius is on the 4th house cusp. Jupiter is the planet of luck, abundance, optimism, extravagance, and growth. The personality of the individual can express his greatest optimism and philosophy within the confines of his own home, gaining in intensity toward the third portion of his life. He becomes wealthier as he grows older, both in material ways and in spiritual ways.

The individual may be most extravagant in his home life, needing an opulent environment in which to thrive. Being challenged by the desire to constantly find a bigger and better place to live, he may end up owning several homes. Much of his enthusiasm is derived from the parent of the opposite sex. He has mentally photographed that parent as the philosophical, happy-go-lucky member of the family. If Jupiter is well aspected, that parent may be wealthy of purse and spirit. If Jupiter is not well aspected, it is likely that the parent has disappointed the child. The parent may have promised more than could be delivered or overestimated his own abilities, disappointing himself in the process. It may be necessary for this individual to look at his mental pictures of that parent in order to release and rechannel some of his desire for challenge and growth.

He may inadvertently set up situations connected to land or home that end up as disappointments. He may overestimate his ability to expand in areas of property and overspend. He may not give himself permission to have the kind of home he really wants, for fear of disappointment. In a positive sense, he can challenge himself by aiming toward the kind of lifestyle he really wants, and by tuning in to 'luck' connected to land, property, or real estate.

The expansive nature of one with a Sagittarius IC will come full cycle when he is older. Wisdom replaces much of an insecure need for fame, and his philosophy may be fully developed through his life and experiences. He is more willing to expand, grow, and take chances as he grows older. He may fulfill the potential of the parent of the opposite sex if that parent was not able to live up to all of his expectations. He will certainly develop his humor to the fullest and will be more than likely to have a luxurious life full of interesting experiences as he comes into his most mature years.

Natal Midheaven in Cancer

(Bernice Grebner)

First Decanate (Cancer-Cancer): These people sense what others want and do well because they cater to the desires of the public. However, this can cause them to change their vocations a lot. It can give great popularity with the people, for they hold the public through emotional chords.

With Capricorn-Capricorn on the nadir, they want to have accepted ranks with the public even if they have to be in a limited area. They are conservative with the family and are probably strong disciplinarians. They don't like to change, and hate to move. They want the home to be strong and sturdy, and they have strong drives to acquire possessions for that home. It can give problems within the home, problems of perhaps too much responsibility and duty.

Second Decanate (Cancer-Scorpio): Along with the talent for sensing needs and desires of the public is the talent for delving into the secrets of nature itself. This can give a very successful career dealing with the public. They sense many things concerning their careers that less sensitive people leave unnoticed; hence they may take avenues that are less obvious. The result of this is they will be a tremendous success.

With Capricorn-Taurus on the nadir, they take pride in the home, where everything is organized and beautiful. They like the idea of owning their own home. They are materialistic and know how to acquire resources. They like the home to have enough land around it so they can enjoy nature, either raising flowers or having a few vegetables in the summertime. They make good hosts or hostesses, and enjoy showing off their properties.

Third Decanate (Cancer-Pisces): They instinctively know what people; and because they gravitate to careers that cater to these needs and work hard giving service they succeed exceptionally well. The ability to work long and hard gives monetary reward.

With Capricorn-Virgo on the nadir, they need to stop being secretly critical. Even though they may not voice their criticism, it can affect their health. Strong drives to keep the household organized can sap their energy and they do not feel secure. This gives a tendency to worry about little details while neglecting the big ones.

(Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

These people are acutely sensitive to their reputations and standing in the world. It is important to them to be considered responsible and respectable. In many ways there is a close tie between professional activity and the home life. These people often have partners in their profession or business.

With Capricorn on the fourth house cusp, since they want everything in its proper place, they are great disciplinarians and household organizers. Yet nothing is every systematized to their satisfaction. Much work and responsibility are concentrated in the home. Although their families tend to be conservative and austere, it is important to them that their homes be recognized as contributing to the life of the community.

(Dane Rudhyar)

When Capricorn is found at the Nadir point of the chart, public concerns may well dominate a person's private life - that is, if no special planetary 'influence' is at work in the fourth and tenth houses. Professional or social activities, however, will tend to be determined by expediency. Indeed, the public or professional life should be managed with a keen sense of adjustment to the rapidly changing moods of the community. If the individual identifies his own fourth house personality with a broad, social, or cosmic purpose - Capricorn - he will indeed need flexibility of response, a sense of timing, and a 'psychic' feeling of what is vital and acceptable to his public, in order to succeed. With such a position, one most often finds a Libra Ascendant; and this of course emphasizes the concern with social issues and values, and the ability to

deal with groups - and in so dealing to discover one's own identity.

(Jeanne Avery)

The Moon rules this tenth house of career, social life and public life. The tenth house also describes the relationship with the parent of the same sex. Since the Moon rules the feminine sex, sensitivity, feelings, and emotions, the personality photographs that parent as being especially sensitive, emotional, and vulnerable. He may see that parent as having been orphaned or abandoned in his or her early life. The parent-child relationship has deep emotional implications and can be extremely difficult for the individual to handle. The person feels as though he or she has to mother and protect that parent whether it is father or mother. He may feel he has to put his own emotional reaction aside in order to protect that parent. He hesitates to do anything that might stir up an upsetting situation. He comes to an early decision that he must keep peace in order to keep the status quo. He may not want to deal with emotional encounters, since they are painful to him. While he feels tremendously protective and mothering, he may resent having to be understanding all the time. He feels he gets the short end of the stick in the realm of being nurtured and understood.

The feelings are so deep between the Cancer MC person and the same-sex parent that the 'child' sometimes feels helpless to make situations better for the parent. He may appear unfeeling at times when in reality the feelings are just too hard to deal with. During a therapy workshop, one young lady with Libra rising became aware for the first time of a deeper relationship with her mother than she had previously acknowledged. She said she realized that she had compromised her whole life to please her mother. She felt she had never cut the umbilical cord, even though she was grown and now married.

In areas of career, the native with this MC may be especially vulnerable. If the relationship with the parent of the same sex was basically a good one, the Cancer MC has a good relationship with his public. In a positive sense, this person understands the trends of the times and the needs of people perhaps more than almost anyone else. The Moon rules the collective unconscious. It indicates areas that we share as far as hunger needs and emotional needs are concerned. The Moon is the planet strongest in the charts of writers, for instance. If the native with a Cancer MC is able to work through his own emotional pain and any difficulty in the relationship with the parent of the same sex, he is especially gifted in writing about matters with which people will readily identify. He writes from his feelings, not his intellect.

If he is in the art world, he responds to the sufferings of people through his art, showing his concern through a desire to bring beauty and pleasure to mankind. If in fashion, he is able to sense what people will want in furnishings or clothing, and will cater to their needs. In the theatre, he will portray especially sensitive roles. He can also appeal to women in particular.

These people can have great appeal to the public, seeming to touch people on a cosmic level.

The Moon is the fastest-moving body through the zodiac. Its many aspects daily can indicate changeableness or moodiness in public ventures. With good aspects, the compassion and sensitivity are high; but with difficult aspects, the individual can be vulnerable and take things too personally. He may have difficulty in career ventures at times, yet it is this very disturbing quality that can become his greatest asset in public life. Learning to work through his own emotional pain seems to enable this person to have a greater identity to, and therefore response from, the public in general.

With Saturn ruling Capricorn on the cusp of the fourth house, security with a home can be of paramount importance. Land or property may be representative of the security, or compensate for the lack of it, in the relationship with the parent of the opposite sex. This house describes the 'photographs' he has taken of that parent and can indicate the heaviest karmic lesson to be learned in life. The fourth house of home also indicates the conditions in the latter part of life. The individual with this IC comes into his strongest time of responsibility as he grows older.

Saturn has been described by the Kabbalists as the 'playpen' Mother Earth puts her children into. A playpen represents both security and limitation for a child. He is released from that playpen when he is able to assume responsibility for himself and can take care of himself. Saturn is also related to the parent ego state in terms of Transactional Analysis. The parent part of ourselves is developed by listening to the real parent's messages. A parent may tell a child, "Be careful, you're too little. You can't do that". An individual may continue giving himself limiting messages long after they are valid. The aspects to Saturn in the natal chart indicate the kind of permission he was given from the parent of the opposite sex. If the aspects to Saturn are extremely heavy, his parent messages could have ranged into the destructive area.

With a well-aspected Saturn in the natal chart, the Capricorn IC has photographed this parent as the conservative, responsible, solid citizen who teaches him duty, discipline, and a sense of high responsibility to himself and to others. As this individual grows older, he assumes the same position of responsibility carried by that parent, perhaps taking it a step further to express any unrealized potential of that parent. He has been given supportive messages from his parent and may focus on establishing a strong home base from which he can go forth into the world. The care of family land and property may fall on his shoulders. His roots and family tree are essential to his sense of well-being. He feels great stability from his parent and knows support will always be there. Any punishment or discipline from that parent is just and to teach value. Good old-fashioned principles, a strict code of ethics, and encouragement toward achievement in life are inherited from this supportive, nonjudgemental parent.

More often than not, Saturn has at least a few difficult aspects in a chart. When this is true, the Capricorn IC may feel rejected by that parent, and may have felt an excess of coolness, reserve, and caution in his relationship with that parent. Sometimes this can indicate the lack of presence of that parent, whether physical or emotional. The parent may not have been around. Separation by death or by distance is possible, as well as a detached attitude. Capricorn IC can photograph that parent with deep insecurities. The parent may have 'stayed in his own playpen' for safety's sake and transmitted those same safety messages to the child with Capricorn IC. In the extreme, the parent's deep insecurities convey a 'you're no good' message to this child. The examination of the aspects to Saturn in a natal chart is extremely important in enabling the individual with this IC to fulfill his highest potential and purpose later in life. The personality can tell how far out of his playpen he has climbed by the kind of environment he chooses. If he lives in dark, small places, he may feel a safety ensured by having little elbow room, but still be plagued by the inherited insecurities. Many times, even if the individual lives in a large, spacious, airy home, he may have some small corner that he can call his own. That niche represents his safety and security in some way, almost like going back into the womb.

The fears related to wanting to keep to such a small, safe place are directly connected with the overly cautious, overly judgemental messages transmitted by the parent of the opposite sex. A turning point in that relationship can come when the

Capricorn IC is able to encourage the parent to steadily climb out of the limiting circumstances. When he can overlook the negativity and see the insecurity or heavy programming or conditioning in the parent's childhood, the Capricorn IC may even motivate himself by a sense of responsibility to that parent, thereby fulfilling his ultimate potential in the long run. The healing of the karmic relationship comes through love. It is possible that the controlling, limiting messages from that parent were motivated by a fear that the Capricorn IC child would forget his filial duty, going out into the world never to come home again.

Many times, fearing his own imperfection, one with this IC can use his home situation as an excuse for avoidance of his highest sense of duty. He will tend to his home base stoically, keeping everything spotless, but eventually will feel trapped and limited. If he can knock down the walls of his playpen and convert it to a trampoline, he will always have the security of his home base to return to after his ventures out into the world around him.

Natal Midheaven in Leo

(Bernice Grebner)

First Decanate (Leo-Leo): In some way they tremendous talent for self-expression of some kind would be the best way of making a name in the business world. The drive for ego satisfaction will be best served when expressing and communicating ideas, if not on a broad scale then within the community. There is no end to endurance when reaching for the top.

With Aquarius-Aquarius on the nadir, there are sudden changes in the home life. It is conducive to unconventional attitudes about the domestic scene. They will want to be free from being too committed to a home or family. This 4th house position makes them more liberal than most others in their generation. They easily renew themselves and can break clean of anything with ease and start over again from their roots.

Second Decanate (Leo-Sagittarius): Don't be surprised if vocations are connected with the need to do long-distance travelling. They have great integrity with their life's work and honesty in making their income. They want to earn a goodly sum and eventually do just that, but more than that they want work to mean something even after they have departed from this life. They have a dream and must strive for it.

With Aquarius-Gemini on the nadir, they are not what they seem to be. Fate seems to split them from family ties through one reason or another. This person may end the last days on earth having more than one home where time is spent. They rejuvenate and renew themselves through expressions and may be 'word-o-holics'. If they could not express themselves they could not break free from emotional or mental restrictions caused by the family members or domestic affairs.

Third Decanate (Leo-Aries): This position needs to be a leader in a chosen vocation, and will back up this desire with hard work. The person needs creative challenges in a vocation and will need to do something on his own rather than working with a team. If Leo-Aries on this cusp is associated with the entertainment field or work with children, he can be at his best.

With Aquarius-Libra on the nadir, home conditions may be more unconventional than average, or there may be upsetting domestic situations. The marriage partnership may involve a secret alliance one of them has, or there may be something one keeps from the other because he or she will not understand.

(Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

With Leo on the tenth house cusp, natives are ambitious in their professions and proud of their standing in the community. They often achieve positions of leadership and authority, and are admired for their accomplishments.

With Aquarius on the fourth house cusp, the home environment is unusual and distinctive. As a rule, there is something out of the ordinary about these people's homes, families, or both. Rather than going to visit their friends, they like to have their friends come to them.

(Dane Rudhyar)

When Aquarius is at the cusp of the natal fourth house, the search for personal integration should be deeply affected by social issues; and home life may be inspired or even invaded by idealistic or revolutionary dreams. Then the Leo Midheaven will manifest itself as the tendency to pour energies emotionally and dramatically into whatever makes possible the fulfillment of the Aquarian ideals. In such a situation, we often find a Scorpio or Libra Ascendant, and this stresses even more the feeling of identification with social or occult groups.

(Jeanne Avery)

The Sun, ruler of Leo, indicates the ego, leadership ability, executive ability, and general vitality and strength. The person with this Midheaven must find career opportunities where he can show true strength and leadership potential. If he has a good sense of his own worth, a good healthy ego, he is easily able to assume the mantle of leadership. He must be in a position where he will eventually receive public recognition. He must have a chance at reaching the top position in his field.

He is easily able to get the attention and recognition he needs as a result of his natural dominance in public life. A strong sense of pride enables him to work his way to the top of the ladder. With a well-aspected Sun, he becomes involved in career projects because he enjoys what he is doing. If his Sun is not well aspected, he has an ego need for recognition that drives him in a negative way. Much of his overall sense of ego depends on the photographs he has taken of the parent of the same sex.

When the Sun is well aspected, the individual has a high regard and respect for that parent. He sees the parent as a dominant force in the family structure, with a well-placed sense of self-worth and a strong leadership quality. In the case of females with Leo MC, the mother assumed the dominant role, so the woman with this MC has a natural sense of dominance and need for public life or a career. She has no sense of obligation about staying in a 'woman's role'. Because of a healthy ego, she naturally attracts the respect she assumes she will have in her career or public life. The individual with Leo on the MC can then fulfill some of the unfulfilled potential of the parent of the same sex. A male sees his father as the strong, dominant force in the family, and follows in his footsteps. If that parent has achieved recognition in his or her lifetime, the native with Leo on the MC has no preconceived blocks to his own success in career or public life. He can also be the leader in social situations. He enjoys deciding the game plan for his group.

If the Sun is not well aspected, a lack of ego keeps him constantly stimulated and challenged toward the goal of recognition. If he is recognized in his field, or in social life, he feels good about himself, but if he does not get the attention he craves, he feels he must try harder to do something different. He may not feel secure about assuming the dominant role, denying himself the right to reach for the top of the

ladder. He did not receive the ego recognition he needed from the parent of the same sex. His role model may not have had a healthy sense of self-worth, and was consequently unable to pass on a certain vitality and strength. The feeling of inadequacy on the part of that parent is transmitted inadvertently to the child with this placement, preventing him from easy attainment of career goals.

Since Leo is the sign of the king of the beasts, the potential in career is unlimited as long as the individual assumes a 'kingly' role. Leo is the dramatic sign of the zodiac. Theatre or public life feels natural to one with this sign ruling the career.

The person with Aquarius on the IC sees his opposite-sex parent as being unusual and unique, or unreliable and unpredictable. The relationship with that parent may be spontaneous, or upsetting and nerve-racking, as indicated by the aspects to the planet Uranus. There is the possibility of an unexpected or accidental death of that parent, or rebellious behavior that may go unreleased. Uranus, in some instances, can describe a tendency toward alcoholism or suicide.

Uranus describes inventiveness, genius, musical ability, spontaneity, humanitarian concerns, and high electrical energy. When that planet is well aspected, the Aquarius IC sees his parent as a free soul, having genius potential, and an avant-garde quality. The influence on the child is associated with his own freedom and permission to take chances. That parent may be in the limelight or spotlight in some way or another. The native with Aquarius IC has a natural ability to follow in the footsteps of that parent, and has the potential to express his own inventive, unique qualities. He may reach the full potential of his particular genius later in his life, fulfilling the unfulfilled dreams of that parent. He will certainly be aware of his need for freedom and will never settle for an ordinary existence. He will desire excitement and unusual activity in his home life. He will not be content to follow a conservative approach or settle into routine in his later years.

As the native with this IC begins to let up on himself and allows more freedom and spontaneity in his life, he translates his intensity into greater effectiveness. He discovers his potential for genius, and allows himself to channel energy into humanitarian concerns and anything unusual, such as astrology, metaphysics, or healing. He acts like a catalyst for people around him and enjoys having the kind of home life where exciting introductions can occur and where he can combine interested and unusual people. He may inadvertently attract fame into his life as a result of his walking to the beat of a different drummer. True inventiveness and unique qualities may seem to separate him from the crowd, yet the ultimate reward is worth taking the chance necessary for success in a unique way.

Many well-known artists, writers, and composers achieved their greatest fame as they advanced in years.

If the planet Uranus is badly aspected in the natal chart, the parental influences can severely damage the person's willingness to take chances and achieve fame and recognition. He may not be easily able to deal with tension, unpredictable experiences, and chaos in the home life. He may become rebellious as he grows older or unpredictable in his habits. He could have photographed the parent of the opposite sex as unable to deal with the tensions, high electrical energy, or inventiveness that may be part of the personality. He may also feel unable to rely on that parent. Many times, in an attempt to calm down the electricity in the system, that parent may have turned to excess drinking. Or he may have indulged in unpredictable behavior to attract the limelight, instead of taking the risks that could also bring him attention. Most often that parent exhibits a high-strung disposition and a nervous quality. If that nervous energy was channeled properly, the child with

Aquarius IC learns how to channel his own nervous energy into productive activity.

The habits connected with home life may include a need to run in and out of the house frequently. As the person grows older, he may not be able to keep to tight routines, preferring to act according to impulse. His nervous energy may keep him out of sync with his natural timing. He may tend to blow things up prematurely, run away just as events are about to propel him into the spotlight. He may want everything to stay in its place in his home, wanting nothing disturbed in case he can't put his finger on what he needs. Home base may be a stopping-off place in between travels. He is attracted to an unusual lifestyle, or an unusual home, in any case.

The excitement and sometimes nerve-racking situations at the base of his life keep him from being bored, although he may find a need for periodic peace and quiet just to restore his nervous balance. Music can become an important part of the serenity he desires. He is certainly not lacking in excitement at the base of his existence. He may have to learn how to upgrade that level of excitement, keeping some semblance of peace and quiet. He will rarely have to worry about life being dull. He can easily become the water-bearer to humanity as he grows older in years. The freedom he experiences in his choice of lifestyle helps him achieve a greater sense of identity with mankind's needs. He can then encourage and heal, and help lift restrictions from the lives of others.

Since the planet Uranus rules music, it is interesting to note how many musicians come into the fullest expression of their gifts as they grow older.

Natal Midheaven in Virgo

(Bernice Grebner)

First Decanate (Virgo-Virgo): The Sagittarian Ascendant (if applicable) gives broad horizons, but on the job they get down to details and work very hard. They give this job a computer-like dedication. They like the organization they work for to be large and safe with excellent backing. They are not prone to start from a small, speculative beginning. If they do start a new business, it will have time-tested people behind it.

With the nadir in Pisces-Pisces, they have a domestic situation that usually calls for real sacrifice. There is always a feeling of uncertainty in domestic affairs or with one parent. A secret may be part of the family heritage. If they use this compassion and understanding they can care for others who are in trouble and take them into their homes. At its best, this position could cause the person to want to build a kind of half-way house where people could come and get temporary help and stay until they get on their feet again.

Second Decanate (Virgo-Capricorn): Here are the people who can organize anything. They can do a good job and at the same time fulfill a deep need to serve. However, do not let their desire to serve on the job make you think they do not want power - they do, and ultimately it will slow up. They need to give the world something and not make themselves greater than the purpose they serve (at least this is the spiritual message). They can straighten out very complicated business situations and, in that sense, become invaluable.

With the nadir in Pisces-Cancer, they are willing to make great sacrifices for the family. They never seem to be able to forget the past. They seem driven to discover the mysteries of their own life and death and the whys of birth, past lives, and all the other esoteric wisdoms. They seek a deeper meaning and identity.

Third Decanate (Virgo-Taurus): This gives the ability to back up ambition with work and the innate knowledge of how to organize in order to make money. They have all the materially oriented signs to reinforce their vocation. They have one-track minds and acquire resources almost without limit. They go right to the point with their Sagittarius Ascendant (if applicable).

With the nadir in Pisces-Scorpio, they like to move about, but for them there is really no place like home. They are willing to sacrifice much for the family, but have strong tendencies to be secretive about what goes on in the home. There is a deep desire within them to unravel the real reason for sex in our lives, besides procreation. They sense a deep connection with the universal rays of rejuvenation at the roots of our being. They have strong leanings toward genetic research.

(Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

Virgo MC people are usually particular about their public images. They appear circumspect, efficient, and organized; and in their professional roles may seem cold, aloof, and critical.

With Pisces on the fourth house cusp, the homes of these people are often places of retreat, set aside for retrospection. Sometimes their houses are provided by institutions; they may live in rectories, ashrams, university-provided housing, etc.. At any rate, they enjoy privacy in their homes.

(Dane Rudhyar)

Here one may find a person who identifies with large social trends at a time when it may be his personal destiny to focus forces of radical change. This in turn forces him to take a critical Virgo approach to social institutions or set professional patterns.

(Jeanne Avery)

The ruler of Virgo, Mercury, describes mental qualities, intellectual activities, and ideas or speech. These people need a career in which they can express their practical, concrete observations and their thoughts and theories. They will be bored unless their career requires the exchange of ideas. Verbal acumen leads to activities where they express their particular points of view. Since the tenth house also describes the parent of the same sex, the photographs he took of that parent precondition success in that expression.

Mercury is the planet describing the adult ego state. The adult part of ourselves learns to express thought in a clear, concise manner, collect data, and be aware of what's going on in the world. If Mercury is well aspected, the intellectual capabilities were do doubt encouraged by the parent of the same sex. The personality may have enjoyed great rapport with that parent, shared and exchanged ideas, and respected the mental ability of that parent. He photographed that parent as one who used his mind, and was interested in education and the exchange of data. The Virgo Mercury is analytical and objective, however, so the parent may have encouraged research and attention to details. The personality can participate in anything from editing to writing. Any activity that requires a focus of mental concentration will appeal to him. Words are his vehicle.

If Mercury is not well aspected in the chart, the relationship with the parent of the same sex may not have felt comfortable and easy. Areas of communication could have been colored by that parent's own intellectual insecurity. Misunderstandings may have occurred, or lack of agreement and understanding may have been constant. The

parent may have been particularly critical, overly analytical, or picky. The person may have to overcome many mental blocks before he can easily express himself. If a child is given free rein to express his own ideas or share information, his growth develops along those lines. If he is shot down or criticized for expressing himself, he learns not to risk saying what he thinks. He may have to relearn how to communicate.

There are always positive and negative interpretations of the energy described by various planets, and also various levels of energy that can be tapped. If Mercury is well aspected in the chart, the native reaches for the highest level of expression he can find. He will want to be in a career position where communications are involved, and where his ideas, information, or speech are important. He may be the decision maker. If Mercury is not well aspected, the individual may avoid the particular career activity that would bring the most fulfillment. Social activities are also described by the tenth house. The person with Virgo MC cares about how he spends time socially. He wants to be around people who share ideas, or to be in situations where he is stimulated mentally. He will enjoy lectures, theatre, concerts, or just good conversation. If Mercury is not well aspected, the Virgo MC may avoid activities where he is stimulated intellectually. Self-criticism may be his worst trait, as he may become especially critical in social situations. He may take up the criticism where the parent of the same sex left off. Learning to express the objective, analytical part of himself may bring the person with this ascendant into tremendous fulfillment with work and career, however.

Neptune rules the fourth house when Pisces is on the IC, indicating how the person feels about his home life, the parent of the opposite sex, and the conditions during the third portion of his life. It describes the kind of environment he looks for as a base of operations. Neptune is the planet of dreams, idealism, and vision in the positive sense, but describes disillusion, naiveté, or lack of reality in a negative connotation.

Neptune describes a tendency to put someone or something on a pedestal. The parent of the opposite sex may have been a visionary or a dreamer, idealistic or unrealistic, intuitive or disenchanted. Whatever the case, the young Pisces IC probably glamorized that parent. He may be very unrealistic about the qualities of that parent, preferring to project his own dreams or colors onto that parent. Confrontation may not have been easy between the two, yet the decision to look at the reality of the relationship can be vital to progress later in life.

Pisces IC can be very sensitive to his environment. He must have ideal conditions surrounding him in order to function well. He may look for the kind of environment that will provide an escape from the harsh realities of life, that will be a haven in which he can dream his dreams. If Neptune is well aspected in the chart, he can be quite fortunate in attracting the kind of home that reflects his ideals; and he can be a visionary when it comes to land or property. If Neptune is not well aspected, the individual may settle for less than his ideal, be unrealistic about real estate, or be disillusioned as far as home life is concerned.

Neptune indicates areas where one creates circumstances by visualizing what he wants. The person with this optimistic, happy-go-lucky outlook can find perfect solutions to living problems through his creative process. He may be inspired by living close to water, such as a lake or pond. A swimming pool may be another solution to the need for water close to the home. Since Neptune rules oil and gas, the luck of this person may have to do with land where oil or gas is found. If Neptune is not well aspected, the person may be disillusioned or defeated before he begins to create an ideal lifestyle. He lets other considerations prevent him from using his

marvelous visionary ability.

As the individual with Pisces IC grows older, he follows in the footsteps of the parent of the opposite sex, perhaps taking the inherited potential one step further. He may fulfill the unrealized potential of that parent, or limit himself by the photographs he has taken of that parent. He either becomes more of a dreamer, visionary, and idealist - or settles for disappointment. If the parent of the opposite sex lived up to his expectations, he is more likely to allow himself full range with his dreams. He brings illusion into reality. If the parent disappointed him or was disillusioned, unrealistic, or naive, confrontation on some level is essential in order to better conditions in his own life. He may become quite disillusioned due to an impractical course of action. He may have to learn how to keep his goal or vision intact while he works out the practical steps toward achieving it. He may eventually become involved with concepts that will better the lot of humanity, for he secretly wants to save the world.

He may be worshipped and adored as he grows older. Conditions may enable this individual to express more of his dreams with the passing of years. He learns to be realistic about the situations that could come crashing down, becomes focused and selective about life. When the rose-colored glasses are finally removed, productivity is enhanced. With the desire to inspire others, he achieves many of the dreams of his early years.

Natal Midheaven in Libra

(Bernice Grebner)

First Decanate (Libra-Libra): In business they will be more than likely to work with partners. They are fair with their associates and believe in the cause of justice. They make excellent judges, lawyers, or post-holders in any vocation that demands a talent for arbitration. They are the diplomats par excellence.

With Aries-Aries on the IC, they no doubt have a domineering parent and, because of that, they are strong masters of their own homes. Somehow this position forces them to learn to relate to a parent, which, if not successful, can lead to revolt against family tradition. It can give activity with the family, activity that makes them feel comforted and warm.

Second Decanate (Libra-Aquarius): They are the public relations people in their businesses. They work well with partners and have original and ingenious ways of earning money through their vocations. They turn cool exteriors to the people they deal with, thereby being able to reach unbiased decisions best for all. However, they are warmer and more attached than they seem to be. They are excellent in administrative work.

With Aries-Leo on the IC, these people are consciously interested in home affairs or the establishment of a home. This is the influence that makes a person gravitate to being a foster parent. They have great interest in helping and teaching children. However, it does give a shyness they have with other people, even if at first it does not seem so. It can give a vigorous sex life into old age.

Third Decanate (Libra-Gemini): They are best working in businesses with partners or someone they can discuss problems with - someone who can help make the decisions. They are more successful if they choose vocations where they can talk and use their powers of communication. They are fair and diplomatic in dealing with their business associates. Working conditions must be peaceful for them to be at their best. This person does not handle the public by being a fighter but by being an arbitrator.

With Aries-Sagittarius on the nadir, here the home is open to all. Even though they are the leaders of religious or philosophical discussion in their home, their true inner religious leanings may not really be out in the open, or too much religious leadership can drain their energy.

(Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

These people often have partners in their professions. They are charming and skillful in winning over people who are in positions of power, and thus gain promotions. However, possessing a strong sense of ethics in professional matters, they usually have good reputations and standing in the community.

With Aries at the nadir, these people are aggressive in matters relating to home and family. The home is sometimes a battlefield for emotional spates. It is generally filled with mechanical devices and implements.

(Dane Rudhyar)

Aries at the cusp of the fourth house stresses the need for sharply focused activity and enthusiasm, or faith, in the search for personal foundations and inner security. Security is not too likely to be found in passive subservience to a tradition or family patterns. As an English philosopher wrote during the early 1930s: 'The only security is no-security'; or, one might say: the best defence is to take the offensive. The problem is: where does one want to go?

The zodiacal sign at the Midheaven should provide the answer to this question, and this sign is invariably Libra. Thus the goal should be to participate in a definite social activity and perhaps in the establishment of new social values. This sense of participation in a communal enterprise can be so overwhelming as to imply the sacrifice of the values attached to a strictly personal life - especially in a case where Sagittarius is at the Ascendant. Such a total devotion to a social-cultural process may hide a deep sense of personal insecurity, which in turn may mean a quasi-adolescent and unstabilized approach to home situations, perhaps a revolt against the mother and all binding forms of possessive love. A solution for personal problems of integration should be sought in those tradition-transcending values which participation in a large, future-oriented or spiritual-religious community might - it would be hoped - reveal to the soul operating at a critical state between two psychological and mental stages of human evolution.

(Jeanne Avery)

Libra is the sign of balance, diplomacy, graciousness, charm, and art. It is an Air sign, indicating intellect, so this person's social inclinations are stimulated by interesting people who have interesting ideas. Venus, the ruler of Libra, describes anything of beauty, love, and harmony. In social life, one with this Ascendant is gracious, charming, diplomatic, and the balance wheel. He is loved by his public, and whenever he is in the public arena, the loving, beautiful part of his nature emerges fully. He loves social life and activities connected with the arts, and has strong cultural inclinations.

When the aspects to Venus are good in the natal chart, the parent of the same sex is exceptionally gracious, charming, and loving. The native with a Libra MC loves that parent, feeling great affection and consideration. His photographs of that parent are positive and beautiful. Mutual adoration makes for a very harmonious relationship. The parent may be particularly artistic, sociable, beautiful, and diplomatic. He tends

to copy the parent in choice of career, perhaps assuming the unfulfilled potential of that parent.

If Venus is not well aspected, however, the personality sees that parent as being overly diplomatic, too easygoing, or one who cops out for the sake of peace. The parent may have avoided taking action, hesitating to make waves, or may have been lazy, undisciplined, or self-indulgent. If that is the case, the Libra MC's tendency may be to avoid career activity that is pleasurable; or he may behave more 'diplomatically' in career situations than is really natural. Self-indulgence is possible in social areas. The individual may associate with people in the theatre world, artistic world, or social scene, yet have no real personal closeness in his social life.

If Taurus is on the cusp of the 5th house, then both the fifth house of creativity and the tenth house of career will be Venus-ruled. If one with this combination expresses his creative ability in connection with career, he enjoys great fulfillment, has pleasure with career activities, and truly loves what he is doing. He will then surely be successful. If, however, the early parent messages were such that he represses his creative energy and overburdens himself, he will lack pleasure in connection with career projects, and may continue his own self-fulfilling prophecy of no joy in life.

If the Ascendant is Capricorn, any career activity can be a mitigating force in the hardship of his early life, since Venus is a natural antidote to Saturn. If he rewards himself through pleasurable social or career activity, he finds his tasks easier by far. His natural abilities to harmonize, create beauty, and work easily with people, are tremendous assets in his life.

With Aries on the IC, life seems to become more active and dynamic as the personality grows older. He becomes very courageous and daring, the antithesis of his behavior as a child. The planet Mars, ruler of Aries, indicates sexuality, drive, ambition, and the competitive spirit. In its negative sense, it describes frustration, temper, aggravation and impatience. Perhaps when the individual with this cautious personality understands his relationship with the parent of the opposite sex, he can begin to work through some of his anger, and transform his energy into dynamic action. If Mars is well aspected in the natal chart, the person is easily in touch with sexual energy, drive, and ambition. He has photographed the parent as energetic, active, ambitious, courageous, and expressive of a healthy sexuality. He will then be resourceful in connection with land and his home, will be energetic within that home, and will become a pioneer as he grows older.

If Mars is not well aspected in the chart, the relationship with the parent of the opposite sex is full of frustration and rage. He may photograph that parent as frustrated, with much submerged or over misdirected anger. The parent's inability to deal with sexual feelings can impair the Aries IC's future relationships with the opposite sex. A woman with this nadir may see her father as an 'impotent' male, frustrated by his own drives, and feel strong overt or sublimated anger toward him. She can be paralyzed in her own sexuality and drives - including ambition - as a result. She may have fights and arguments with her father that resolve nothing, and attract a mate as 'impotent' as her father. A continuing rage toward her mate and home life is likely. She may feel guilt about that and suppress her own energy, sexuality, and rage.

These patterns can be broken if the individual becomes aware of them through therapy or some other means. The energy level becomes especially high after those patterns are broken. Much energy is then channeled into the home life, and activity becomes even more important as the individual grows older. Since Mars rules physical activity as well as sexual energy, any activity that provides a physical outlet

within the home keeps the individual healthy and happy, free from temper tantrums. Mars also rules metals. Creative activity such as metal sculpture, typing on a metal typewriter, needlework, building, gardening with metal tools, or sewing will release frustrations felt within the living situation. If the patterns of negative relationship with the parent of the opposite sex are allowed to remain undiscovered, the likelihood of bitterness and frustration in later life is a distinct possibility.

In cases where Mars is well aspected, the individual may become more sports-minded later in life. Pioneering energy is developed, with tremendous resourcefulness coming to the surface. Since Mars has strong two-year cycles, the individual with Aries IC may feel an impetus to move or make changes in his environment every two years. Moving furniture, remodelling, or rebuilding can relieve the itch to make a drastic change.

Natal Midheaven in Scorpio

(Bernice Grebner)

First Decanate (Scorpio-Scorpio): These people need vocations where there are secrets to be uncovered, such as chemistry, investigative work, psychology, and even astrology. They will not quit a job until it is finished and they have the final answer. They have very practical business talents and can attend to the most minute details if necessary. If they use their probing minds, they will have great success.

With Taurus-Taurus on the IC, they cannot be changed by their family but can be led through love to co-operate. This influence gives them a very stubborn attitude concerning domestic affairs. Once something in the house is in a certain position, it remains there forever.

Second Decanate (Scorpio-Pisces): They are substantially expert at bringing about financial growth in business. They are best when working with their creative and investigative mind. They organize their jobs behind the scenes, secretly, so it looks as if they did it without any effort at all. Their conservatism isn't apparent to the public, for they appear to be more loose and free than they actually are.

With Taurus-Virgo on the IC, they can be stubborn and critical with their families. They are too much the perfectionists within the domestic scene or slave drivers with members of the family in pushing work, work, work, for money, money, money. Somehow behind these drives are sexual problems. However, if they are fulfilled sexually it eases their drive for work and money.

Third Decanate (Scorpio-Cancer): If you want results on the job, you will get it with this position. There is nothing they can't get to the bottom of; and they will labor physically and mentally to do an excellent job. They will observe the results; and, if they are not to their liking, they will do the job over. The people they work with are like second families to them. They will know all about their fellow employees and cater to them, but others they work with may not get to know very much about Scorpio-Cancer here. This is the person to whom everyone unburdens their problems.

With Taurus-Capricorn on the IC, they are very conservative and tight, moneywise, within the domestic circle. There is an extremely economical condition with the family. There is a tendency to acquire money and things just for the sake of acquisition alone. Family ties are important, and nothing can be done to rock the boat. Eventually this may cause extensive illness requiring hospitalization, for everything has a price. However, the home is sturdy and solid.

(Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

Historically, many with Scorpio on the MC have been revolutionaries, since they are at odds with the established régime or those who have authority over them. They do not wish to dominate or be dominated. Their opportunities for self-renewal come through their professions; and often renown follows.

With Taurus on the nadir, they admire elegant homes, and much of their financial resources is channeled into creating a beautiful personal environment. Within this environment they like to be surrounded by music and art. The home is where these people's maternal or paternal instinct expresses itself in providing for their families.

(Dane Rudhyar)

The fixity of purpose and natural organic productivity of the sign Taurus when related to the fourth house stresses the importance to the individual of deep roots in a particular land and tradition, and of a solid home foundation. But, as in every other case, the character of this foundation depends a great deal on what zodiacal sign is on the Ascendant, for the Ascendant is at the source of all that characterizes the essential function of the individual as an individual - that is, his identity as a unique person. In temperate regions of the northern hemisphere, if Taurus is at the Nadir point of the chart one can expect Capricorn, Aquarius, or even Sagittarius at the Ascendant. The 'Earth' character of Taurus would be strengthened by a Capricorn Ascendant; and the Cancer Descendant would add to the concentration on productivity within the radius of the home or of a well-defined field of activity.

Taurus symbolizes in the cycle of the year the evolutionary ascent of life toward the Sun, the ascent of the sap which nourishes the plant and culminates in the blossom. The Scorpio Midheaven, which polarizes this ascent if Taurus is at the cusp of the fourth house, represents the flowering of the life energy in the at least relatively full-grown organism of personality - thus the glamor of youthful bodies enamored with one another and, through sexual embraces, seeking to reach the experience of power which expresses itself through the union of life polarities. A cycle of experience later, around age fifty, this fulfillment of vital energies may be replaced by the exaltation of social-professional achievements. These also imply a union with a superpersonal reality - a group, a nation, mankind - which releases social power.

Here again we see polarity at work in the opposed ends of the natal meridian, Nadir and Zenith. In the fourth house, the product of Taurean fertility is oneself as a person; in the tenth house, the product of Scorpio's urge to commune in depth with other persons should result in a significant and productive 'office'. The office-holder and the office depend upon each other. Results are generated by their interaction.

(Jeanne Avery)

Pluto, the ruler of Scorpio, indicates tremendous power, charisma, intensity, forcefulness, and effectiveness, depending on its position in the chart and the aspects to other planets. If Pluto is well aspected, the individual with this inventive rising sign can attain powerful positions in the public arena or with his career, if he so chooses. Much of the preconditioning of his career potential depends on the photographs he took of the parent of the same sex.

Pluto is the planet perhaps least understood, possibly because its power is so intense. The Scorpio energy may not appear to be what is usually considered powerful, yet when this dynamic force is channeled to its highest level, effectiveness seems incredibly easy. In terms of Transactional Analysis, Pluto relates to the child ego

state. The child can be totally innocent and therefore very magnetic, or manipulative and 'powerful' in a more overt way. The innocent child will always be more effective than the manipulative one.

When Pluto describes the relationship with the parent of the same sex, the individual sees that parent as a 'child', enormously charismatic, playful, and getting results all the while. If Pluto is well aspected, the parent has a power that is natural, easy, not forced. But if Pluto is not well aspected in the individual chart, the parent may have been overly aggressive and manipulative, unaware of the intensity of his energy. The parent may have unwittingly used force to overrun the individual, and perhaps everyone else. His message may have been: 'Do what I say and don't ask any questions'.

In public life or in career matters, the native with Scorpio MC can be enormously effective. He acts like a 'producer', reaching people on a mass level. He may manufacture things, be involved with major organizations, or deal with the television industry, a Plutonian occupation. The negative side of Pluto smacks of the underworld, or of manipulation that eventually backfires. In a more subtle sense, it describes whether the ends justify the means. Scorpio is the sign of transcendancy or transmutation. The image of the Phoenix rising from the ashes describes the process of burning out the negative Scorpio energy of revenge, manipulation, or childlike determination to want what is wanted whether the end results are good or not. A child and the Plutonian energy have a similar message: 'I want what I want, when I want it. I'll get it and no-one will stop me'. The child reaches maturity when he can let go of non-productive situations. The Scorpio evolves in the same way.

In a metaphysical sense, Pluto describes the will. A child's will is strong and effective, but his concern is for his own pleasure or needs. The evolved will is related to Universal will, or the desire to do only what is for the good of the whole. Then the 'innocence' of the child ego state emerges. When the individual with Scorpio MC is willing to use, as his motivation, the desire to transform energy to the highest level, working for the betterment of mankind, he taps the highest universal energy. He then becomes truly effective.

Many times a person with Scorpio MC feels caught by a desire to get even with the parent of the same sex. Rebellion against the standards advocated by that parent can result in a stymied career for the individual. He may be forced to transmute his thumb-nosed attitude in order to achieve his own goals. In most rebellion, the only person who is hurt may be the rebel. If he is truly able to rise to the highest motivation with career or public life, he may end up with all the overt symbols of success he may have wanted early in his life.

Venus, the planet that rules Taurus on the IC, indicates pleasure, beauty, harmony, art, serenity, and graciousness. It also describes affection, love, and sensuality. If Venus is well aspected in the natal chart, a beautiful exchange of love and affection between the individual and the parent of the opposite sex is indicated. The personality photographs that parent as sociable, charming, gracious, and handsome or beautiful. If Venus is not well aspected, the parent may have been lazy, self-indulgent, or inclined to take the easy way out in life.

In the positive sense, the personality enjoys greater peace and harmony in his later years. He needs a home that provides solace and beautiful surroundings. He may have a wonderful art collection. He will certainly be sensitive to the right color and décor in his home. Since Taurus is the sign most associated with gourmet food, land that provides food, or an 'estate' designed for entertainment and enjoyment, becomes a strong desire for this native.

If Venus is not well aspected, the individual with this IC may have felt a lack of support from the parent of the opposite sex. Affection may have been withheld or the parent may have backed away from conflict. The possibility of following in the footsteps of that parent in areas of assertion may be strong. The individual may tend to take the easy way out at home, wanting only a haven or refuge from the storms of the world. In the most extreme form, the individual may hide out at home in order to avoid outside conditions. Structuring time, especially with artistic projects, enables the person to find an antidote or missing ingredient in life. If he can sink his teeth into projects, he finds a way out of a morass. Venus, one of the 'benefics', is never all bad. Enjoyment of social life, friendship, affection, and pleasure are important for someone with this IC sign. At its worst, self-indulgence, laziness, or overinterest in pleasure to the exclusion of anything else is ascribed to Venus. The possibility of avoidance of anything remotely distasteful or ugly in connection with home or lifestyle is a Venusian trait. Gracious living seems to come naturally to one with Taurus IC.

Natal Midheaven in Sagittarius

(Bernice Grebner)

First Decanate (Sagittarius-Sagittarius): These visionaries are lucky in their choice of vocations and setting of goals. They are best in a travelling job, for they are using their restless, wandering-type natures creatively rather than in a nonproductive way. They are also good counselors. Their ideas are expansive and, because they are, the natives are bound to advance.

With Gemini-Gemini on the IC, the person is influenced not to stay in one place too long but to move around from home to home. If he does stay in one place, he may not be in that home very much. This 4th house Gemini likes people and prefers to live among a wide variety. This can give more than one home at the same time (this is the ideal). It may give brothers and sisters living in the same home (after marriage, that is), or the sisters and brothers visit a lot, so it seems as if they live there.

Second Decanate (Sagittarius-Aries): They have a certain amount of luck and, by exerting much energy along with it, they succeed and acquire quite a bit of money. However, they spend it pretty fast. They are out in the open with beliefs, and are desirous that faith should inspire others to do something special.

With Gemini-Libra on the IC, the mental indecisions come in connection with a home and the domestic life. They want homes very much but cannot make up their minds where they are happy. They need only the proper balance, but can't seem to find this balance. Although they seem quiet and peaceful, they are not. There can be too much emphasis on the partner's finances and what the partner contributes to domestic expenses or how much the partner spends.

Third Decanate (Sagittarius-Leo): They have big ideas, but their hearts must be in their careers or they don't do as well. If they can have strong leadership roles, they will put everything they have into their work. They are charming and know how to attract people to them because they know just what to say. They think big, and usually get big results. The vocation may require travel, but behind every business trip you can bet there will be fun and games included.

With Gemini-Aquarius on the IC, they are restless to the core of their being and like to move from place to place. They like to rebel against tradition. They can be very radical. They renew themselves easily through liberal ideas. They are not bound by

crystallized opinions that keep others in bondage. At their soul's point they are free. Their hang-ups may be their friends; perhaps they are driven by an insatiable urge, which makes them feel as if they never have enough comradery in their homes.

(Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

These people can succeed as executives who have a great deal of vision, but they are not always practical. They often work in the fields of education, religion, and travel, achieving fame in these areas through their religious and spiritual accomplishments. They are likely to be considered philanthropists and are generous in their professional contacts.

With Gemini on the IC, these people travel a good deal and often change their residence. They have a tendency to establish two homes. There is usually a large library in the home. They communicate extensively with family members and give a great deal of thought to domestic affairs.

(Dane Rudhyar)

Gemini at the cusp of the fourth house tends to provide changing situations while the process of personality integration takes place. The tree of personality may be like a palm tree or a sequoia with a very wide and extensive network of roots not far below the surface, instead of a deep-reaching taproot. Concentration on very basic feelings may be somewhat difficult. The individual may have antennae feeling for multiple impacts and stimuli for growth, rather than a solid and secure realization of what he actually is and stands for as a person. The danger is for a strong and clever ego to develop as the efficient and perhaps proud organizer of complex life experiences.

Much depends in such a case on the sign at the Ascendant. In most instances it will be either Aquarius or Pisces; only in the far north could it be Capricorn, a steadying influence. An Aquarius Ascendant may stress idealism and / or social discontent; a Pisces Ascendant would tend to give a touch of transcendence and perhaps psychic instability to the Gemini foundation of the personality. And the positions of planets in the fourth house could considerably modify and polarize the typical Gemini characteristics, either adding restlessness or stabilizing the intellectual structures upon which the person depends for inner security.

(Jeanne Avery)

With the luckiest planet in the zodiac ruling the tenth house of career, the Sagittarius MC person can have great good fortune in areas of public life. Jupiter is the planet that is associated with enthusiasm, humor, sales, wealth, wealth of spirit, and good luck. Sagittarius on the cusp of the tenth house describes optimism and the constant need for goals and challenges in career matters. There is a strong possibility that one with this Midheaven will have several careers in one lifetime, as he becomes bored if a challenge is missing. If he can find an occupation that he cannot conquer completely, he will be successful.

When Jupiter is well aspected in an individual chart, the photographs he took of the parent of the same sex describe a happy-go-lucky parent, optimistic, perhaps religious, wealthy financially or wealthy of spirit. He sees that parent as one who is successful as a result of contagious enthusiasm and optimism. If Jupiter is not well aspected, the parent may have had severe disappointments in life that precondition the normal optimism of the personality. Since there is strong identification with the parent of the same sex in choice of career, it can be important to realize how devastatingly a parent's disappointment in the career arena can affect this person. In

this event, the Sagittarius MC person may hesitate to be truly successful, in order to remain on the same level as that parent.

With a strongly aspected Jupiter, the parent encouraged the child to set goals and express enthusiasm in public life. If not, the parent may have inadvertently warned the Sagittarius MC personality about the danger of disappointment. In the positive sense, the relationship between parent and child was happy, optimistic, philosophical, and enjoyable. With a difficult Jupiter, the Pisces personality may have experienced great disappointment from that parent.

A certain degree of spirituality, perspective, or vision and hopefulness is necessary for involvement in film or theatre.

Home life, later life, and the parent of the opposite sex are described by the fourth house in a chart. With Gemini ruling here, the individual photographs the parent of the opposite sex as being especially witty, verbal, interesting, and exciting intellectually. Depending on the aspects to the planet Mercury in the individual chart, he will either have exceptionally good communication with that parent, respecting his or her ideas and thoughts, or have disagreements.

The planet Mercury, ruler of Gemini, is the planet associated with the adult ego state, in terms of Transactional Analysis. The adult part of oneself is the fact collector, with clear thoughts and ideas to be expressed. Strong opinions can be associated with the planet Mercury, as well as any intellectual activity such as writing, analyzing, researching, or studying. If that planet is well aspected in a natal chart, the association with the parent of the opposite sex is mentally stimulating, with shared ideas and witty discussions. The joy of the exchange of opinions and ideas leads to a later desire to have a home where ideas and thoughts are shared and examined.

If Mercury is not well aspected, the potential for disagreement with that parent is strong, and photographs of that parent are apt to focus on mental stress, flightiness, and criticism. If Mercury is badly aspected to Saturn, for instance, the parent may tend to think negatively, or be insecure about his or her intelligence. If Mercury and Mars are in difficult configuration, the parent may be sarcastic or caustic in discussions or with expressing views. When the Moon and Mercury are badly aspected, there is a tendency to speak and think emotionally or with lack of precision or clarity. Difficult combinations between Mercury and Jupiter can bring about a tendency to say too much, oversell, or promise more than can be delivered.

When Mercury and the planet Uranus are not in good aspect, there is potential mental stress for the parent of the opposite sex. He or she may have an erratic way of speaking, with thought and ideas tumbling forth in jumbled profusion. In extreme cases, the parent may have feared a mental breakdown at some point in his or her life. Too much 'electricity' coming into the brain may produce scattered ideas, rapid speech, and confusion in mental expression.

When Mercury and Pluto are in difficult aspect, there is a tendency to manipulate with words; the individual tends to say what he feels the weather will bear. The parent may have been a compulsive talker as well, fearing he would go unnoticed unless he poured forth a marathon of words. Mercury and Neptune in difficult aspect describe a tendency to overanalyze concepts and destroy dreams by nit-picking. The parent may have stressed practicality instead of encouraging the Gemini IC child to follow his dreams. These aspects describe not only the personality of that parent but also the quality of the relationship between parent and child.

Home life tends to be a place of activity with Mercury ruling this house. If Mercury is

well aspected, the constant sharing of ideas will be stimulating and enjoyable, but if that planet is not well aspected, the personality may periodically have to get away from the overwhelming mental activity. Ideally, this person would like to have a salon where he could combine fascinating people from literary and artistic worlds, making his home a meeting place for the exchange of great thoughts. He will no doubt have a vast library or at least a special place for the books he collects. Since Gemini is a dual sign, he may need two homes in order to gain perspective and find occasional mental peace. One home may be more of a hideaway, the other a more public place. Each place may have a distinct personality of its own. The Gemini IC may find that his inclination to write and express concrete intellectual ideas increases as he grows older. He begins to bring many of his idealistic views into clearer focus, and learns how to clarify many of the vague ideas that formerly floated through his mind. He can become a brilliant speaker or writer, lecturer or teacher. Mental stimulation will certainly continue all his life.

Natal Midheaven in Capricorn

(Bernice Grebner)

First Decanate (Capricorn-Capricorn): They are organized with everything and everyone. Because they know they will not get something for nothing, they are willing to work for it. They will avoid trouble if they can, for they do not want any stain on their reputations. They keep climbing until they get to the very top.

With Cancer-Cancer on the IC, they over-idealize their childhood or one parent. This position gives a restlessness like the Moon, which makes for a continual moving of their home base or many changes within the home. They seem to long for the childhood Shangri-la they never quite find again, even though their memory of this childhood home may be more fancy than actual fact.

Second Decanate (Capricorn-Taurus): They will rise in their careers for they want to be first because they do not like to take orders. They are able to pioneer new territories that have great income potential. They spend money for things that will increase in value as years go by, or that will increase the value of assets they already have. Energy goes into making money. They will not do anything that will be a detriment to their vocations. You can be sure they give every move much mental examination.

With Cancer-Scorpio on the nadir, they are very interested in the family and feel driven to carry on the family strain. They have a much more stable and permanent home than Cancer-Cancer. They have strong ideas concerning their domestic life and expect all in the home to accept these ideas. No-one outside the family will learn much about their home life, for they are secretive about it and constantly instruct their family to be the same.

Third Decanate (Capricorn-Virgo): This gives ambition, hard work, ability to organize, and a talent for putting up with petty little details. The first decanate of Capricorn doesn't like to put up with the details Capricorn-Virgo does. Capricorn-Virgo will put up with details gladly if it means they will end up as the authority. They can end up nervous and irritated but they will come out fine if left alone. They know how to take care of themselves. This is probably the boss who takes five-minute catnaps behind a closed door.

They are willing to make great sacrifices for the family. These people never seem to be able to forget the past, and are driven from subconscious urges to discover where they came from and what their deeper identities are. This discovery can come

through religious study, the occult, studies of reincarnation; whereby they seek to identify with past lives. They are also excellent in their research concerning their family tree in this present life.

(Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

Capricorn MCs are ambitious and want to achieve professional prominence through competition. They do not always cultivate the patience needed to submit to those in the position to give them the promotions they desire.

With Cancer on the IC, they gain deep emotional satisfaction from home life. They are dedicated to their families, which are the bases of their operations.

(Dane Rudhyar)

A fourth house with Cancer at its cusp indicates a human being in whom the archetypal characteristics associated with the number '4' in numerical symbolism - perhaps the most universal of all symbolic systems - are quite strong. This is because Cancer is also the fourth sign of the zodiac. Indeed, the often stressed identity of meaning attributed by astrologers to Cancer and the fourth house can only be justified on such a numerological basis. The number '4' is the symbol of concrete embodiment and of the most basic feelings associated with the operation of life energies and their psychic overtones - the basic drives studied by psychologists. This number defines the process of integration as it operates at the bio-physic level within human consciousness. It refers to the type of intelligence which works as the obedient servant of the life force in order to provide a secure foundation for the growth of personality - an intelligence whose operations are controlled by expediency, empiricism, and adaptation to concrete organic needs. This intelligence is related to the Moon in astrological symbolism; and the Moon is said to rule the sign Cancer. It refers to the mother only because it is the mother who cares for the baby incapable of meeting his own needs - the need for food, clothing, shelter, cleaning, and also for security and love.

A Cancerian fourth house refers therefore to the particularly strong and probably lifelong need of the individual to focus much of his attention upon his ability to adapt to changing conditions in his private life. This stresses the importance not only of the home life, but also of all that refers to the process of personality integration. However, such a concentration upon the near-at-hand, the organic, the feelings, and upon some sort of Mother-image, could be overwhelming if not integrated with what the Capricorn tenth house implies: that is, an equally strong concern for establishing oneself securely in a social position. The latter provides the social power, the money, necessary to run a secure, satisfying home.

(Jeanne Avery)

Saturn is the ruler of this house with Capricorn on the midheaven. The MC, as it is sometimes called, indicates the image before the public. With Saturn affecting this image, duty is a strong keyword. This is the area of life that requires the most focus and concentration. It can sometimes be limiting and restrictive, but in a positive sense represents security.

Saturn is one of the most important planets in a chart as it indicates the heaviest karmic lesson to be dealt with in life. The word 'karma' means the law, but it is the universal law of cause and effect. Saturn is related to the parent ego state in Transactional Analysis terms. The parent part of ourselves is the most judgemental. It is that small voice of conscience that can also be overbearing and guilty. The

placement of Saturn in a chart indicates the areas where we put ourselves under the most pressure, sometimes combined with a little hair-shirt wearing.

The Kabbalists liken Saturn to the playpen that Mother Nature puts around her children. We put our children in playpens to keep them safe, but eventually that child must have freedom and more room to investigate. We give our offspring more territory and space when we're sure that he can take care of himself. If he becomes responsible, we give him more privileges. Life seems to work the same way. The judgemental part of our personality, i.e. the parent ego state, will let up on us if we're convinced that we're ready to really take care of ourselves. We then give ourselves more elbow room.

At first, with career responsibilities, the individual keeps himself under enormous pressure, as that is an easy energy for him to deal with. He feels safe and secure in a little corner. He may work for someone else where his perfectionist qualities are never appreciated. He may be so careful to ensure everything is perfect that he will work harder and harder to please his boss. Since the boss would be lost without him, he may never get the recognition he deserves or the confirmation of his invaluable assistance. It is when one with this Midheaven becomes aware of his own value and diligence that he allows himself to assume the higher responsibility of working for himself. He trades in a limited security for the assurance that he will make it on his own by hard work and attention to detail.

The relationship to the parent of the same sex has much to do with the conditioning about his public image and career decisions. His relationship can be a karmic one, full of duty and obligation. He can either feel tremendous security from that parent, or feel rejected and under judgemental scrutiny. The aspects to Saturn in the individual's chart tell the true story about the relationship. If Saturn is well aspected, the karmic bonds are strong. That parent, even though strict and conservative, assumes high responsibility for himself and represents safety and dedication. The parent may be a strict disciplinarian, yet that strictness is tempered with love and devotion. The parent of the same sex will never be a frivolous person. The individual with Capricorn MC develops his own sense of duty and responsibility from the behavior of that parent. He will then go on to assume devotion and duty in the choice of his career, but he will be good to himself along the way. Progress is gradual and consistent, but he knows he will get to the top of his career and build a strong and dutiful public image. He can be motivated by a sense of responsibility for that parent, as well. He may sense limitation in the life of that parent and want to provide more security or pleasure.

If Saturn is badly aspected, the parent may be overly strict, aloof, cool, and unreachable. He may not be there at all. Death or separation can sometimes be a part of the early conditioning. He will photograph that parent as having deep insecurities, never getting out of his own 'playpen'. He may inadvertently keep himself in limited circumstances to avoid ultimate responsibility for that parent. He can feel rejected by that parent, under constant supervision and criticism. He may feel ignored or feel he will never live up to the expectations of that parent. His subconscious guilt may keep him from reaching out, for possible rejection from that parent is too much to handle. He may subconsciously feel it is ultimately his fault: if only he were more clever, charming, talented or handsome, that parent would love him. He can be comfortable with the same kind of behavior from his public. Rejection is expected. The opposite side of the coin is never to put himself in a position where he will be rejected in career matters.

The antidote for Saturn is twofold. First, the individual will develop security and confidence by learning a technique connected to career responsibilities. With

increased confidence, he begins to moderate his judgemental messages. If he realizes his potential to make valuable contribution through his endeavor, he is challenged beyond any insecurity. Secondly, if the limited circumstances are due to an inner resolve about heavy responsibility connected to that parent, he may inadvertently keep himself from success. If he can adopt a different attitude about the caretaking of that parent, helping him out of the 'playpen', he will find that he too is 'sprung'. His attention to detail is profound, his ability to work hard unquestioned. He simply needs to find an area where the compensation is worth his superior focus.

With Cancer on the fourth house cusp, this individual can have a deep emotional attachment to his home. Since the Moon, which is the ruler of Cancer, indicates feelings, sensitivity and vulnerability, it is in connection with land, home and his environment that the Cancer IC person may be most affected. He may show vulnerability, even moodiness, when he is in the safety of his own surroundings. He will be hardest hit when anything happens to change his home or home life. He needs a home in order to feel secure emotionally. He will reveal more of his nurturing instincts when he is there, and may allow himself to express his sensitive side within the confines of his own four walls.

The Moon describes the feelings, emotions, and needs mankind shares in common. It is related to Jung's collective unconscious. By working through one's own emotional needs, instincts about the needs of mankind in common become clear. The Moon also describes the mothering instincts. For Cancer IC, instincts about others' needs in connection with nesting impulses or home life are especially strong. He may nurture others in his own home.

The fourth house indicates the relationship with the parent of the opposite sex. If the Moon is well aspected in the chart, the relationship is one of deep understanding and sensitivity. If the Moon is not well aspected, there may be a possibility of hurt feelings and vulnerable reactions. There may be a little of each quality in the overall picture. The parent of the opposite sex may be especially vulnerable, sensitive, and emotional. Since the Moon rules the anima part of the personality, this parent can show more of the 'feminine' characteristics, no matter what sex. In the chart of a female with Cancer IC, there is a strong possibility of role reversal between the two parents.

In many instances, the native with Cancer IC will feel especially protective of this parent, even to the point of feeling like mothering that parent. Many times, the emotional reaction of the Aries ascendant has to give way to the vulnerability and sensitivity of that parent, so the parent is the one to be protected and understood, not the child. If the Moon is well aspected in the chart, the Cancer IC person is sensitive to that exchange; but if the Moon is not well aspected, the individual may resent it. He may have felt abandoned by that parent. This is the parent that can upset him most easily, yet a deep rapport and strong emotional ties can be established if the individual with this IC can show some objectivity where this parent is concerned.

Since the fourth house indicates the conditions in the third portion of an individual's life, it appears that one with Cancer IC becomes more sensitive as he grows older. This sensitivity can lead him to an activity where his sense of the trends of the times impels him to show greater concern for humanity in general, women in particular. He may express the unfulfilled potential of that parent of the opposite sex. If he is in touch with his own emotional pain, he is able to show a nurturing and sympathetic concern for others who may have experienced difficulty in their lives. This quality of feeling makes him a natural writer as he grows older because of his ability to be more in touch with his own intellect and emotional quality. Even if he is involved in communications or writing early on, he will discover new sensitivity expressed in

later life. Feelings that emerge lead to compassion on a greater scale. Emotional fulfillment becomes even stronger through identification with all mankind.

Natal Midheaven in Aquarius

(Bernice Grebner)

First Decanate (Aquarius-Aquarius): They need to be their own boss or be in careers where they can have their own say in an independent manner, or be in a business that produces items that are avant-garde. Their vocations will follow an erratic pattern. They will tend to make friends among their fellow employees. Aviation or electronics may appeal to them. Their jobs should benefit humanity in some way if they are to be satisfied.

With Leo-Leo on the IC, they must be the head of the household. The home will be lavish and a place where they can entertain others in a grand style. They want recreative amusements in the home such as a swimming pool, pool table, archery, and anything else they can fit into their domain. They are more than likely to be the lords of their home, if not of their neighborhood.

Second Decanate (Aquarius-Gemini): They will benefit from vocations where they give community services. It gives a dual aspect to the vocation. There may be two places they operate, like two stores with the same name. When they use originality and cleverness to make money, they acquire a great amount. Any vocation where they need to do a lot of talking to people will be beneficial.

With Leo-Sagittarius on the IC, they have a keen morality at the deepest part of their nature. They desire a home, but always want even bigger ones than they had before or a home bigger than someone else's. Even if they disagree with the family, they want to do right by them, for they have a fine sense of integrity and nobility of purpose where family is concerned. They are conscious of the breeding they received from their parents and what they want to give their own children. The sex drive is strong, but subconsciously it results from idealistic drives to successfully carry on the family heritage or tradition. They are loyal and demand loyalty in return.

Third Decanate (Aquarius-Libra): They are co-operative and want their careers to help a great multitude of people. They are probably the arbitrators who believe in unions and fair trade. Even though they have tendencies to do their things, they are well able to associate with partners and accept the partners' ideas in a diplomatic fashion acceptable to all concerned.

With Leo-Aries on the IC, to the public they are diplomatic, friendly, and would do anything for the image, but at home they can be argumentative and domineering. They have subconscious drives to show their fearlessness and do all kinds of rather brave feats to prove this.

(Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

There is a tendency to work in groups where matters of profession are concerned; hence, involvement with large corporations and group endeavors. Aquarius MC people like to have the reputation of being associated with prominent and stable, yet unusual and ingenious, people.

With Leo on the IC, they express their power through the home and family. Generally, their homes are showplaces through which they express their creativity and status. They entertain lavishly, and those who come into their homes are treated with

warmth and love.

(Dane Rudhyar)

When the sign Leo is at the cusp of the fourth house, a person's home life and the development of his personality may be conditioned by a feeling of pride and the desire to live in an at least relatively sumptuous residence which will become a stage set for self-expression, or at least in tune with the need for the exteriorization of what the person senses to belong to him by right of destiny. The fourth house process for personality integration may take on dramatic overtones, perhaps verging at times on theatricalism. The person with Leo at the Nadir of his birth chart may have a somewhat regal but possessive mother. Wherever he is, he wants to be 'lord of the manor' - and it may have to be a well-fortified manor with ego-walls.

The Aquarius Zenith usually indicates reliance of the creative person upon professional and social patterns as fields for the projection and stabilization of his personal power. He often seeks some relatively large, and perhaps idealistic, field for public action; he wants a broad stage on which to play his role, a role in which he can shine individually. His whole community should be such a stage; or it might be a professional field which deals with new inventions or offers the opportunity to become a leader or a prophet.

(Jeanne Avery)

The planet Uranus rules the house of career with this house placement. Uranus is the planet of 'genius', freedom, humanity, or rebellion. The native is capable of doing tremendously humanitarian things in his public life if he is in touch with that part of his nature, or he can refuse to let himself take the chances necessary to achieve greatness. He is capable of attracting great fame through his public life if he is able to work through the 'scare' connected with that kind of recognition.

The tenth house of a chart is also indicative of the relationship with the parent of the same sex. The photographs the individual took of his same-sex parent early in life are most important in the development of his potential. He seems to tune in to one facet of the personality of this parent, which point the way for his future career interests. It appears that the parent has 'genius' qualities and a humanitarian and avant-garde approach to life. Uranus in a negative sense can indicate a high-strung nervous disposition or, in a positive interpretation, a musical or inventive ability. If Uranus is well aspected in the chart, the parent has allowed himself to live up to his potential and is therefore a good role model for the native with Aquarius on the Midheaven. If that parent has achieved some degree of greatness or fame or has taken healthy, positive chances with his own career, the personality is better able to take those chances connected to his own career. If that planet is not well aspected, the parent may resist the unique part of himself, and try to go against the extra 'electrical' energy penetrating his system. Aquarius MC becomes rebellious in his own career, or perhaps resists healthy risks necessary for his true success.

In many cases, this sign can represent an 'alcoholic' personality on the part of the parent, whether that parent indulged in excess drinking or not. A general tendency toward impulse, spontaneity, or nervousness is possible as well. Uranus can describe a hysterical quality. It is as if that parent has an extra amount of electricity racing through his system. Sometimes there is a combination of both positive and negative manifestations of Uranus, but if the parent has been able to utilize his unique qualities constructively, the nervous disposition is greatly lessened. Therefore the photographs are more in focus.

When Uranus is badly aspected in the chart of one with an Aquarius MC, there is also the possibility of an abrupt departure by that parent. This individual could see that parent as being unpredictable, unable to bear much pressure, and somewhat unreliable. In his own career, he may blow things up prematurely by taking off at just the wrong moment. It may be that just as matters appear most uncertain with his own career situation he can be blasted into high recognition. This aspect can also indicate strong seven-year cycles. He may never be able to work for anyone else, as his own need for freedom is so great that he will have to do some sort of work that allows for his own time schedule.

The planet Uranus ruling the 10th house of career also indicates a strong messianic complex. He can wish to be the torch bearer to humanity by acting as a catalyst for others. He will have to learn to let go of the people he puts together, or he may feel left out at times. He needs to ensure his own freedom of action in order to combine new groups, new people. An ever-progressing need for new experiences will keep this person stimulated in his public life. Uranus rules awakening on a spiritual level. The lesson that Aquarius MC may have to learn is somewhat like learning to let plaster fall, in order to create new walls. The change can be nerve-racking, the results splendid.

It is in the area of home life that this person expresses his true pride and ego. It is especially important that he have the kind of home that reflects his true personality. Land and real estate mean more to him than to almost anyone else. Having his own piece of land gives him his greatest sense of self-worth. It roots and grounds him, and makes him secure. Even if he only works with products from the earth, he can express that need for grounding.

The Sun rules the fourth house of home with Leo on the IC. The Sun is the planet that indicates ego, vitality, pride, leadership, dominance. It is connected to the animus part of the personality and can give clues about the executive ability. No matter what sex, one with Leo IC is the boss in his own home. He or she is the one who calls the shots, makes the decisions, and leads the parade. If the individual with this IC has a good sense of self-worth, he will naturally assume his right to have a magnificent home. If he does not think much of himself, he may not allow himself the kind of home situation he'd really like. His sense of self-worth, and therefore the kind of lifestyle he chooses, is very much related to his relationship with the parent of the opposite sex.

The fourth house in a chart shows how an individual has photographed the parent of the opposite sex. His clear identification depends on good strong pictures of that parent early on. The aspects to the Sun in an individual chart tell just how he sees that parent and precisely the facet he identifies with most readily. If the Sun has primarily good aspects, he has great pride in that parent. He naturally sees that parent as the dominant one, no matter what sex, and feels that parent has lived up to his potential and shown leadership or executive ability. However, if the Sun is not well aspected, he may photograph that parent with a lack of ego that affects his feelings about himself. Consequently, he chooses a lifestyle that does not truly reflect his inner sense of self-worth. Since there is such strong inner identification with that parent, he may subconsciously be unwilling to surpass that parent. If the Sun is well aspected, pride in his parent translates into healthy pride in himself, and he will be able to choose a home or lifestyle that reflects a good sense of self-worth.

The fourth house also indicates the conditions in the third portion of an individual's earth existence. In many instances, an individual has the potential not only to live up to the image of that parent, but also to accomplish things the parent was unable to fulfill in his own life. The parental role model will indicate how easy it is for him to

assume his own executive, leadership potential later on. If the individual has taken up the gauntlet and set greatness as his goal, he clearly can achieve success and recognition as he grows older. The aspects to the Sun in his chart will give clues as to his willingness to do just that.

If the Sun and Saturn are badly aspected in his chart, the person with the Leo IC sees the parent of the opposite sex as having a deep insecurity. The strong judgemental, severe, 'be safe' messages he receives from that parent, either overtly or subconsciously, will prevent him from feeling truly good about himself. He may not be sure about his leadership quality, or be unwilling to assume that kind of responsibility. If the Sun is in difficult aspect to Neptune, that parent may have set himself up for disillusion by setting unrealistic goals. The Leo IC may not set high standards for himself for fear that he will fail and become disillusioned, as the parent was. Sun-Mars aspects indicate frustration on the part of the parent, as well as impatience and anger. Sun-Uranus aspects can be a clue to the rebellious nature or 'inverted' genius he inherited. With the Sun in difficult aspect to Pluto, the parent may have been compulsive, overly forceful, or game-playing. The individual is then inclined to put too much pressure on others, play some games - and he eventually will pull the rug out from under himself. With bad aspects to Venus, the individual sees the parent as being lazy or taking the easy way out. Jupiterian aspects, if difficult, can indicate overexpectation, overextension. The native may have been disappointed in the life of that parent.

Observation of the kind of home one with this IC lives in can give strong clues as to the overall sense of pride. It is up to the individual to reward himself for a job well done, if there was a lack of ego recognition coming from the parent of the opposite sex. He must learn to evaluate himself in a healthier way. With proper attention, he is able to release more energy by feeling good about himself and allowing his lifestyle to truly reflect the inner values.

Natal Midheaven in Aquarius

(Bernice Grebner)

First Decanate (Aquarius-Aquarius): They need to be their own boss or be in careers where they can have their own say in an independent manner, or be in a business that produces items that are avant-garde. Their vocations will follow an erratic pattern. They will tend to make friends among their fellow employees. Aviation or electronics may appeal to them. Their jobs should benefit humanity in some way if they are to be satisfied.

With Leo-Leo on the IC, they must be the head of the household. The home will be lavish and a place where they can entertain others in a grand style. They want recreative amusements in the home such as a swimming pool, pool table, archery, and anything else they can fit into their domain. They are more than likely to be the lords of their home, if not of their neighborhood.

Second Decanate (Aquarius-Gemini): They will benefit from vocations where they give community services. It gives a dual aspect to the vocation. There may be two places they operate, like two stores with the same name. When they use originality and cleverness to make money, they acquire a great amount. Any vocation where they need to do a lot of talking to people will be beneficial.

With Leo-Sagittarius on the IC, they have a keen morality at the deepest part of their nature. They desire a home, but always want even bigger ones than they had before or a home bigger than someone else's. Even if they disagree with the family, they

want to do right by them, for they have a fine sense of integrity and nobility of purpose where family is concerned. They are conscious of the breeding they received from their parents and what they want to give their own children. The sex drive is strong, but subconsciously it results from idealistic drives to successfully carry on the family heritage or tradition. They are loyal and demand loyalty in return.

Third Decanate (Aquarius-Libra): They are co-operative and want their careers to help a great multitude of people. They are probably the arbitrators who believe in unions and fair trade. Even though they have tendencies to do their things, they are well able to associate with partners and accept the partners' ideas in a diplomatic fashion acceptable to all concerned.

With Leo-Aries on the IC, to the public they are diplomatic, friendly, and would do anything for the image, but at home they can be argumentative and domineering. They have subconscious drives to show their fearlessness and do all kinds of rather brave feats to prove this.

(Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

There is a tendency to work in groups where matters of profession are concerned; hence, involvement with large corporations and group endeavors. Aquarius MC people like to have the reputation of being associated with prominent and stable, yet unusual and ingenious, people.

With Leo on the IC, they express their power through the home and family. Generally, their homes are showplaces through which they express their creativity and status. They entertain lavishly, and those who come into their homes are treated with warmth and love.

(Dane Rudhyar)

When the sign Leo is at the cusp of the fourth house, a person's home life and the development of his personality may be conditioned by a feeling of pride and the desire to live in an at least relatively sumptuous residence which will become a stage set for self-expression, or at least in tune with the need for the exteriorization of what the person senses to belong to him by right of destiny. The fourth house process for personality integration may take on dramatic overtones, perhaps verging at times on theatricalism. The person with Leo at the Nadir of his birth chart may have a somewhat regal but possessive mother. Wherever he is, he wants to be 'lord of the manor' - and it may have to be a well-fortified manor with ego-walls.

The Aquarius Zenith usually indicates reliance of the creative person upon professional and social patterns as fields for the projection and stabilization of his personal power. He often seeks some relatively large, and perhaps idealistic, field for public action; he wants a broad stage on which to play his role, a role in which he can shine individually. His whole community should be such a stage; or it might be a professional field which deals with new inventions or offers the opportunity to become a leader or a prophet.

(Jeanne Avery)

The planet Uranus rules the house of career with this house placement. Uranus is the planet of 'genius', freedom, humanity, or rebellion. The native is capable of doing tremendously humanitarian things in his public life if he is in touch with that part of his nature, or he can refuse to let himself take the chances necessary to achieve greatness. He is capable of attracting great fame through his public life if he is able

to work through the 'scare' connected with that kind of recognition.

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Natal Midheaven in Pisces

(Bernice Grebner)

First Decanate (Pisces-Pisces): With regard to career they should always have all the cards on the table from the start or there may be deception develop somewhere along the line sooner or later. They may present an image to the public that is the furthest thing from the reality of what they really are. Somehow what they really do, or the motive behind what they do, doesn't come across to people.

With Virgo-Virgo on the IC, their health suffers if they do not have the right place to live. Their homes must be neat and orderly, or they are disturbed mentally. It is good if they have a job where they operate out of the home.

Second Decanate (Pisces-Cancer): These people instinctively know how the public will respond, and they gravitate to careers that cater to these instincts with the public. The problem with this placement is that they do not know what they themselves want. They need vocations where some type of communicative skill exists. Two jobs may satisfy their desires to be variable. A vocation where some kind of domestic product is sold, or a restaurant, would be ideal.

With Virgo-Capricorn on the IC, the home is very organized, and their households contain articles that show pride in ancestral treasures. They have an exemplary reputation in the neighborhood, for they believe in following the rules. Inheritance seems to play an important role in or with home conditions, such as caring for a sick parent.

Third Decanate (Pisces-Scorpio): They are best at vocations where they are using their creative and imaginative minds. While they like to be variable on the job, or are indecisive as to what they want to do, they will stand by a commitment until it is finished. If they feel their jobs have elements of sacrifice in them for the greater good of a lot of people, they will dig in with fervor and work hard. They need to know their work means something special.

With Virgo-Taurus on the IC, there is a secret drive for dominance and power. They take their families too seriously. They may take their desire for perfection out on their families. The public little knows the people they are in their own homes. Behind all outward appearances seems to be the will to make money, and to make moeny and possessions count for acceptance.

(Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

Pisces MCs tend to be 'otherworldly' and visionary, and not always practical with regard to work and public reputation. They are elusive and hard to pin down in professional matters. Peculiar conditions are sometimes associated with their jobs and reputations, and there is always an element of mystery in their professional activity.

With Virgo on the fourth house cusp, they prefer to and often do situate their professions and workshops in the home. They render service to their families and are fastidious and discerning in the home. Like the Moon, they move around constantly, and, if possible, combine visits with financial gain.

(Dane Rudhyar)

Virgo at the cusp of the fourth house should normally bring a great deal of self-analysis and self-criticism in the process of personality integration. The value of ancestral, usually taken-for-granted traditions may be questioned; there may be much preoccupation with the improvement of the home situation. The mother's influence could lead to concern about diet and health; the child may feel confused and upset by a critical mother. If Cancer is the rising sign, the possibility of a mother complex against which the adolescent may rebel, more or less successfully, may be fairly strong. If Gemini is rising, a greater stress on intellectual processes and analytical procedures is likely.

Virgo at the Nadir point implies Pisces at the Zenith. The public and / or professional life should be concerned with large social issues, especially in terms of a transformation of the status quo. Pisces at the Midheaven often favors a musical profession, but a Piscean approach to one's participation in society may take many forms. Much depends on whether or not planets are located in the tenth house, and what these planets are.

(Jeanne Avery)

The planet Neptune rules the tenth house of career with Pisces on the MC. Neptune is the planet of idealism and vision. It indicates a natural inclination toward therapy, film, and the glamour world in general. It is certainly the planet that indicates inspiration. An individual with this MC evidences his true visionary spirit through career and public life. His deepest desire is connected to 'saving the world' in one way or another. He wants to uplift his fellow man and make life more ideal. He finds ways to inspire others through his career. If he succeeds in his dreams, he may end up on a public pedestal.

The tenth house is also the house that rules the parent of the same sex. The way this parent is photographed by the individual has much to do with whether he easily fulfills his dreams in regard to his career. With Neptune ruling this house, the individual can idolize this parent. If Neptune is well aspected, the parent may have been disillusioned in his life. The photographs are therefore out of focus and distorted, and do not give a clear image for the individual to follow. Instead of being the guiding light for others, he can be unrealistic about his public life. He may be unwilling to let himself follow his intuitions and go for broke, or he may have a Don Quixote complex, fighting windmills all the way. The Don Quixote soul may suddenly wake up to reality one day and be devastated, not knowing how to put his dreams back together again.

One young man was on cloud nine about running the offices of a large metaphysical organization. He had dreams of fulfilling his desires to be of service to humanity. With a badly aspected Neptune in his chart, he did not stop to look at reality or read the fine print. He expected perfection and a high level of devotion from all those around him. When he discovered that the organization was also a business, and that the motivation of everyone was not as high as his own, the disillusionment was hard to take. His dreams crashed into millions of pieces, impossible to put together again. He turned to the lower registers of Neptune; with drugs, he attempted to climb back to the heights where the colors were rosy and glowing at all times. His acting career fell to pieces, and life was less than beautiful for a long time.

With Neptune ruling the tenth house, the Pisces MC person needs to be a practical idealist in the career arena. Neptune is the planet that indicates how well we visualize, thereby creating the circumstances around us. Metaphysically, we are taught that whatever we can conceive will become a reality. It is important to dream dreams and give them a chance to become manifest. Fantasy is essential as part of

the creative process. If Neptune is well aspected, the fantasy life is clear, sharp, and in focus. The events in the life of the individual with Pisces MC are products of his intuitive mind. He goes past his adult ego façade and allows himself to see the broader scope. He deals on the higher octave of the intellect in his choice of career. If Neptune is not well aspected, that fantasy can get him into trouble. This can often indicate a tendency toward the manic state. His need to be 'high' can cause him to be unrealistic and less than practical. This desire for service may give one a Christ complex as well, as he may really want to save the world. It is important for the individual with Pisces MC to learn how to make his dreams a reality.

If Neptune is not well aspected, we can fool ourselves into thinking that our dreams are in sharp focus when they're not. When we don't get what we think we want, the resulting crash is hard to take. It is easy to blame circumstances, 'life', or the breaks. It can be important for Pisces MC to find a practical way to bring vision and inspiration into the area of career by planting the right seeds. Learning to read the fine print is one way of confronting the reality of a situation. Building on vision and not on hope is another. A natural outlet for one with this Midheaven is to channel those career energies where his conceptual ability is utilized. Therapy is ideal, as well as film, theatre, music, and literature.

A look at an individual chart indicates whether one can easily bring his concepts into view or whether he finds a way to prevent himself from the possibility of being disillusioned. It can clearly indicate how the parent of the same sex influenced the child. With a difficult aspect to Mercury, the Pisces MC person tends to overanalyze his concepts, blowing them to pieces before he can be let down. Saturn in difficult aspect indicates a cynical outlook - a wonderful self-protective device. Neptune and Mars in negative aspect indicate a 'liar's aspect'; this person may have been told partial truths in order to protect him from possible disappointments. Neptune-Jupiter in difficult aspect is the 'con man's aspect'. It indicates a tendency to gild the lily. If the native is aware of his tendency to overlook the reality of certain situations because of the conditioning of childhood, he can work past those messages and learn to bring better conditions into his life.

Life seems to come full cycle for one with Virgo on the IC. The intellectual potential of the rising sign (especially if it is Gemini) is sometimes not completely fulfilled until his latter days. That potential, indicated early on, may be put on hold more during the middle years of exploration. It is stimulated again in a more concrete manner as he grows older. The middle years may be enormously idealistic, full of dreams and glamour. After that part of the cycle is completed it appears that one with this IC begins to settle down.

There is strong identification with the parent of the opposite sex with this nadir sign. Many times the parent's latent talents seem to be passed on; and later in life may become the focal point for the individual with Virgo on the IC. He begins to manifest the particular quality of that parent that he has photographed throughout his life.

The whimsical quality of someone with Gemini rising who has Virgo IC will become more down-to-earth with maturity. In youth, it is hard for him to sit still long enough to fully explore his intellectual capacities, but later on as he slows down and has sorted out his ideas, he pins down his intellect in a different way. He becomes more analytical. He puts ideas through the fires of purification, sorts out extraneous distractions, and explores on more practical levels.

The parent of the opposite sex often is photographed by the individual as being analytical, even critical; but strong intellectual direction seems to come from this parent. If the relationship is a good one, the Virgo IC is encouraged to express his

curiosity and need for exploration. If the relationship is difficult, he may be a target of criticism from this parent. The quality of the relationship is indicated by the aspects to the planet Mercury in the chart. Good rapport with this parent means good 'adult' programming. If the adult input was negative, it may take a lifetime for this individual to work past those early criticisms to find his own way.

Virgo IC looks for a home base that will allow him to express ideas. He may think a great deal about his environment, home life, surroundings. He can be interested in land, real estate, ecology. He may use his home as a base of operations; writers and composers work at home, and actors learn lines at home. The Virgo IC person does his best thinking when he is surrounded by his own four walls. Libraries and books can be essential for one with this Nadir sign.